

365 Stories

Every day is a special day for a special story.

Part - 1

By Courtesy of:
Bait-ul-Ilm Trust

Published by:
Saeed Ahmed Welfare Trust

inspiring, instructive, informative & interesting

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The Perfect Gift

السلام علیکم و رحمۃ اللہ وبرکاتہ

What is the best gift that a Muslim can give to another Muslim?

Do you know that the best gift to give to your Muslim brethren is knowledge about religious affairs? If you feel, after reading this book, that it can benefit your family, friends, business relations, schools, colleges and others; then send them this book. This will ensure:

1. That you will be practicing the hadith - "تهادوا تحابوا" which means - "Exchanging gifts will increase mutual love".
2. That you will be investing in your hereafter as well as dispensing your duty to your Muslim brethren.
3. That you will get the blessings of promoting knowledge and religious information.

Therefore, try to make this book available to as many people as you can. Send a copy to your local Masjid, library, clinic and school to fulfil your religious duty.

An Important Request

السلام علیکم و رحمۃ اللہ وبرکاتہ

To our respected readers

الحمد للہ, we have finally completed this book and we would like you all to know that we have tried our best to print this book with correct references and without errors so that whatever is stated is authentic and referenced. However, to err is human, and so, should you find any mistake, room for further improvement or if you have any suggestions or comments, please write to us about it so that we can make sure that the next print is error free. الحمد للہ, a lot of effort has gone into the editing and designing of this book and we hope that our readers will be happy with the result and pray for the acceptance of our endeavours.

جزاك الله

Waiting for your precious suggestions,

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There are numerous other Ahadith as well as stories from the life of Rasulullah ﷺ.

That place great importance on the education and upbringing of children.

Alhamdulillah, the Baitul Ilm Trust has published many books in Urdu and English like the Zouqo-Shouq Series, Storytime and Bedtime Stories. And now, dear friends, another series is here with a total of 365 stories so that you have at least one story or interesting read to satisfy your appetite every day.

You will read in these stories about the greatness of Allah تبارك وتعالى, the love for Rasulullah ﷺ, good manners, respect of parents and elders, firmness and courage. This book has stories, facts, jokes and quotes. I am grateful to Hafiz Muhammad Ahsan and Brother Asim Bharoocha, and I request you all to remember me and them in your prayers.

Yours sincerely
Muhammad Hanif Abdul Majeed

A Word From The Publisher

Dear friends,

Allah تبارك وتعالى has informed us of the past nations, the good and the bad people. This has been done so that we know what is right and what is wrong, and this helps us be better people. The way good people lived and the blessings showered on them inspires us to do the same, while reading about the punishments on the sinners makes an intelligent person think and try to keep away from such deeds.

Therefore, reading about the incidents and stories from the lives of Prophets عليهم الصلاة والسلام and noble people influences us to perform good deeds. Hazrat Junaid Baghdadi رحمه الله تعالى said that stories are an army from the armies of Allah تبارك وتعالى and that through these, Allah تبارك وتعالى gives peace of heart and steadfastness on faith.

Allah تبارك وتعالى says,

> "We narrate to you all such stories from the events of the messengers as We strengthen your heart therewith." (Hud: 120)

Rasulullah ﷺ has stressed on the education and upbringing of children. A few Hadith say the following:-

1- Teach your sons swimming.

2- Teach your subordinates Surah Yousuf.

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CONTENT

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The New Emperor

An emperor from the Far East was growing old and knew it was time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or his children, he decided something different. He called all the young people in the kingdom one day.

He s aid, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you."

The kids were shocked! But the emperor continued.

"I am going to give each one of you a seed today. A very special seed! I want you to plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with whatever you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next emperor!"

One boy named Ling was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the whole story. She helped him get a pot and planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully. Everyday he would water it and waited for it to grow. After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Ling kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, but still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. Six months went by-still nothing grew in Ling's pot. He thought he had killed his seed.

Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. However Ling didn't say anything to his friends. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow.

Finall the year ended and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wouldn't go because of the empty pot but his mother insisted him to go. Being honest about what happened, Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace. When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other youths. They were beautiful and in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and the other kids laughed at him. A few felt sorry for him and just said,"Nice try, young boy."

When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in the back.

"My, my! What great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the emperor. "Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!" All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified.

"The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!" When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked his name.

"My name is Ling," he replied. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked everyone to quieten down. He

looked at Ling, and then announced, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!"

Ling couldn't believe it. Ling couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor? Then the emperor said, "One year ago from today, I gave everyone present here, a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds that would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"

Good Questions Deserve Great Answers (Part 1)

Khalid bin Walîd رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ narrated the following hadith:

A Bedouin came one day to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and said to him, "O, Messenger of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى! I've come to ask you a few questions about the affairs of this Life and the Hereafter." "Ask what you wish," said Rasulullah ﷺ.

Q: I'd like to be the most learned of men.

A: Fear Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى and you will be the most learned of men.

Q: I wish to be the richest man in the world.

A: Be content and you will be the richest man in the world.

Q: I'd like to be the most just man.

A: Desire for others what you desire for yourself, and you will be the most just of men.

Q: I want to be the best of men.

A: Do good to others and you will be the best of men.

Q: I wish to be the most favoured by Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى.

A: Engage as much as you can in Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى's praise, and you will be the most favoured by Him.

Q: I'd like to complete my faith.

A: If you have good manners you will complete your faith.

Q: I wish to be among those who are the Muhsineen.

A: Adore Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى as if you see Him. If you don't see Him, He sees you. In this way you will be among those who are the Muhsineen.

Q: I wish to be obedient to Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى.

A: If you observe Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى's commands you will be obedient.

Q: I'd like to be free from all sins.

A: Bathe yourself from impurities and you will be free from all sins.

Q: I'd like to be raised on the Day of Judgement in the light.

A: Don't wrong yourself or any other creature, and you will be raised on the Day of Judgement in the light.

Q: I'd like Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى to bestow His mercy on me.

A: If you have mercy on yourself and others, Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى will grant you mercy on the Day of Judgement.

Q: I'd like my sins to be very few.

A: If you seek forgiveness of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى as much as you can, your sins will be very few.

Q: I'd like to be the most honourable man.

A: If you do not complain to any fellow creature, you will be the most honourable of men.

Good Questions Deserve Great Answers (Part 2)

Q: I'd like to be the strongest of men.

A: If you put your trust in Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى, you will be the strongest of men.

Q: I'd like to enlarge my provision.

A: If you keep yourself pure, Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى will enlarge your provision.

Q: I'd like to be loved by Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى and His messenger.

A: If you love what Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى and His messenger love, you will be among their beloved ones.

Q: I wish to be safe from Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى's wrath on the Day of Judgement.

A: If you do not lose your temper with any of your fellow creatures, you will be safe from the wrath of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى on the Day of Judgement.

Q: I'd like my prayers to be answered.

A: If you avoid forbidden actions, your prayers will be answered.

Q: I'd like Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى not to disgrace me on the Day of Judgement.

A: If you guard your chastity, Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى will not disgrace you on the Day of Judgement.

Q: I'd like Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى to provide me with a protective covering on the Day of Judgement.

A: Do not uncover your fellow creatures' faults, and Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى will provide you with a covering protection on the Day of Judgement.

Q: What will save me from sins?

A: Tears, humility and illness.

Q: What are the best deeds in the eyes of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى?

A: Gentle manners, modesty and patience.

Q: What are the worst evils in the eyes of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى?

A: Hot temper and miserliness.

Q: What calms the wrath of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى in this life and in the Hereafter?

A: Concealed charity and kindness to relatives.

Q: What extinguishes hell's fires on the Day of Judgement?

A: Patience in adversity and misfortunes.

(Kanzul Ummal, Kitabul Mawaiz vol. 16 page 53 Hadith no. 44147)

The Spotless Banana

Abid Jan was a very wealthy man of Pakistan. He was so rich that he had big houses with lawns, swimming pools, tennis courts and garages in all the big cities of Pakistan.

But unlike common perception about the wealthy people, he was nice. He did not cheat people, he did not lie, and he never made an unfair deal. He also gave huge amounts of money in charity.

Abid Jan had only one child, Asma Jan. Since she was his only child, she got a lot of attention and care from him and everybody else.

Sometimes too much love and care spoils kids. But this was not the case with Abid Jan's daughter, Asma. She was also very good and kind to others like her father. Asma Jan was also a very neat and clean girl. She used to bathe every day in the morning and she used to wash her hands before and after every meal. She was also very pious and offered her prayers five times daily. She also used to recite Quran Majeed daily.

The best thing about Asma Jan was that she never made fuss about food. She would not cry and misbehave badly over food. In fact even though her father Abid Jan could afford to give her the best delicious dishes three times daily, she would eat vegetables and boiled food also without making a bad face. She would thank Allah تبارك وتعالى for whatever food she got and say, "There are millions who don't get to eat anything and sleep hungry at night."

But there was one little problem...... She would not eat bananas. Somehow, whenever she looked at a banana she felt like vomiting. At first her father, Abid Jan thought that she had some sort of allergy. He took her to the best doctors but all they said was that they hadn't seen a kid with better health than Asma; they told him that she was not allergic to anything.

This little problem sometimes created bigger problems at the table. Other people loved bananas, so whenever it was kept on the table she would not even look at it. Since everyone cared a lot for Asma, they avoided eating and bringing bananas home.

One day Abid Jan went up to Asma and said, "My dear child, we have noticed that you don't like bananas. Can you please tell me what the problem is?"

Asma replied, "Papa I am sorry to cause so much inconvenience to you and others. The problem is that when I see the black spots on the banana I feel like vomiting. I mean how can we eat something that is rotten? Papa you know very well that I even eat boiled vegetables, but do you expect me to eat rotten food?"

Abid Jan smiled and said, "Oh such a small problem.. Ok, dear Asma. I will Insha Allah تبارك وتعالى bring a spotless banana for you today. Then when you have tasted it, I will tell you something that you do not know." Asma said, "Thank you Papa. May Allah تبارك وتعالى bless you. You care so much for me."

That day Asma was given a spotless banana. Yes, a banana that was totally yellow with a little shade of green on the top and the bottom.

She peeled the skin and looked in amazement at a pure milky white fruit. Obviously this was the first time she had seen a banana completely white from the inside. She ate it. Then Abid Jan asked her, "Yes Asma, what did the banana taste like?" Asma replied, 'Papa it looked great. But it did not taste good, it was sort of - um - tasteless."

"Ok Asma, now try this spotted banana." Abid said while handing her a spotted banana.

Asma took it reluctantly. She peeled the skin, and looked inside. It was a bit softer than the spotless one, and it had blackish spots here and there. Although she did not feel like eating it, but she was very curious to know what her father wanted to tell her that she had not known, so she ate it.

Then Abid asked again, "Which one is better?"

Asma replied, "Papa the spotted one looked partially rotten but it tasted better."

Then Abid Jan said, "This is exactly what I wanted to tell you Asma. Never judge a book by its cover. Just like the banana, everyone has spots. I mean, you will not like every thing in everyone, but you must like them overall. People and fruits are sweet and good. If you keep looking at a person's bad habits, you will never be able to find a friend because no one is spotless. If someone has faults but is overall good, you should be friends with that person."

A friend is a person who thinks you are a good egg, even though slightly cracked.

The Prince (Part 1)

Abbas (son of Khalifa Haroon-ur-Rashid) in his youth adored to talk and listen to pious religious people. He would visit graveyards frequently and was very cautious of his doings.

Once, when his father was talking with his ministers and officers, the boy came up to them wearing only two pieces of cloth, one around his waist and the other on his head. The men looked at him. They did not like to see a prince dressed this way. They thought that it was not right for a king's son to dress in such a poor manner.

"This boy is very bad, he upsets his father. He should dress properly so that the king may be proud of him when other kings come to see him," they said.

When the king asked his son to dress in rich clothes, the boy did not answer but decided to show them a wonder (karamah), something Allah تبارك وتعالى made easy for him to do because of his intense love for Allah تبارك وتعالى. He looked around and seeing a bird a long way off, he called it to his side. The bird flew onto the boy's hand. He then told the bird to fly away and it did so.

Having shown everyone what Allah تبارك وتعالى could make him through his will, he turned to his father and told him that he wore shabby clothes because, if he loved Allah تبارك وتعالى, such earthly things were not important and that he was sad because his father seemed to love the world more than Allah تبارك وتعالى.

Soon, the boy knew it was time to leave his father's court and serve Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ alone. He took with him a copy of the Glorious Qur'an and a precious ring, which his mother gave him to make use of, if he ever needed any money.

When the prince reached Basrah, he worked as a labourer for one day in the week and took only enough money to last him a week. At this time, Abu 'Amar Basri (a learned man and a mystic of repute) was looking for a builder to mend a wall which had fallen down. Suddenly, he saw a handsome youth busy reciting words from the Glorious Qur'aan. He asked the boy if he would do the job. The boy said,

"I will do the job but I want only a small sum of money to last a week and I must stop working at the times of Salaah"

Abu 'Amar agreed to this and the youth started to work. By the end of the day Abu 'Amar noticed that the boy had done the work of ten men. He paid him his wages (minimal, as requested by the boy). To his surprise, the boy did not come the next day. As he was so pleased with his work, Abu 'Amar set out to look for him but could not find him until the next week at the same time and in the same place that he had seen him before. The boy again asked for the same small sum of money and time off for Salaah, and carried on building the wall.

At the end of the day, Abu 'Amar gave the boy more money than he had asked for, but the boy would not take more than what would last him a week. Abu 'Amar waited until the next week for the youth to come for work. He did not come and was nowhere to be found. Abu 'Amar looked all over for him. He told his story in the following words: "I asked all and sundry. At last a man told me that the boy had been ill and lay unconscious

in the forest. I paid a man to take me to him. When I reached the place, the boy was lying on the ground, resting his head on a stone. I spoke to him but he did not answer. I greeted him again and this time he opened his eyes. He recognised me at once. I lifted his head and put it in my lap. He raised his head and spoke some verses reminding everyone about death and warned against people who were greedy for worldly goods.

The Prince (Part 2)

The story continues like this ....

He asked me to bathe him and bury him in one of his garments, to give the other piece of cloth and his wudhu cup to the man who would dig his grave and to take the Glorious Qur'an and the ring to Haroon-ur-Rasheed personally and to tell him, 'These are your things. They belonged to your son. Make sure you do as Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى wishes." With that, the boy died. Only then did I realise that the boy was the prince. I buried him there as he had asked and took the ring to the king in Baghdad. I stood on a high mound near the palace and saw a troop of horsemen riding out from the palace. Nine more battalions followed. The king himself rode with the tenth troop. When I saw him, I shouted at the top of my voice. The king stopped and I showed him the things that his son had left. He recognised them and so I was able to tell him all I could about his son. Tears rolled down his cheeks as I spoke. He ordered one of his guards to look after me until he returned from his royal visit. When I saw the king again he was very sad indeed. He asked me how I came to know his son. He was very shocked to hear that his son, a prince, wished to work as a labourer and for enough money to last him only a week. I said that I had not known that he was the king's son, and a Sayyid, the descendant of our beloved Nabi Muhammad ﷺ.

The king asked me if I had bathed his son with my own hands. I told him that I had and he took my hands and pressed them to his heart as he said some couplets, which showed his great sadness. He also visited the grave and recited more couplets, which told of the fact that death must come to everyone.

Later, Abu 'Amar Basri dreamt of the departed soul of this boy which told him of his great joy in Paradise where he found happiness beyond the realms of human thought or imagination.

(Tafsir Haqqi Vol. 7 page 321, Al-Kahaf: 8)

Harun-ur-Rashid and Two Good Men

The history of Islam has seen many just, pious rulers, among whom the first four Caliphs, 'Umer bin 'Abdul 'Aziz of the 'Umayyads and Mahdi of the 'Abbasids, Mahmud of the Gaznawids, and especially the early ones from amongst the Seljuks and Ottomans were the most famous. They consistently consulted the pious scholars and saints among the people and were not angered by their warnings.

Together with Abu J'afar al-Mansur and Ma'mun, Harun-ur-Rashid was one of the most celebrated rulers of the 'Abbasids. He ruled over a vast land stretching from Morocco to China and from Abyssinia to the Caucuses. Although he was not as famous for justice and piety as Mahdi, he was also a just and upright man.

Once he visited the renowned scholars and saints among the people one by one. Dissatisfied with the advice and manners of welcoming he received from some of the scholars, he finally knocked at the door of Fudayl ibn 'Iyad رَحِمَهُ اللهُ تَعَالَى.

Fudayl had lived on plundering. Since he had a powerful gang and himself was very good at fighting, travellers had been much afraid of him. However, he had later repented of what he had been doing and become a much renowned saint of the time.

Fudayl opened his door to the Caliph and without inviting him in, warned him severely. He reminded him of the Day of Judgement and gave him other advice. When one of the men escorting the Caliph attempted to stop Fudayl, the latter reprimanded him, by saying, "It is you and those

like you who seduce the rulers. You do whatever they wish and agree with whatever they order and decree." Harun-ur-Rashid was greatly moved by Fudayl's warnings and wept for a long time.

Harun-ur-Rashid was once doing Hajj (pilgrimage) when a man from amongst the crowd called him, saying, "O Commander of the Believers! Would you please listen to me for a short while?" The man was 'Abdullah, a grandson of 'Umer bin 'Abdul 'Aziz رحمه الله تعالى. The Caliph took him aside and the following conversation ensued between them:

"O' Commander of the Believers! How many people do you guess are here performing pilgrimage?"

"Only Allah تبارك وتعالى knows their number.

"Now, beware O' Commander of the Believers! All of those who are shedding tears are doing so out of the fear that they may be unable to account in the Hereafter; each for his own deeds. However, you will be called to account for both your own self and all of those people."

This led the Caliph to think deeply for a while. Then he requested the pious scholar to continue. The scholar added, "By God, O' Commander of the Believers! If a man neglects to do his own duty and wastes his own property, the Almighty will punish him. But, have you ever thought what will happen to him if he, as a ruler of innumerable people, neglects to do his duties with respect to the people and wastes public property?"

This time the Caliph could not help shedding heartfelt tears.

Go to Hell

Two men were on a plane on a business trip when a Muslim family boarded the plane and were seated right in front of them.

The two men, eager to have some fun, started talking loudly.

"My boss is sending me to Saudi Arabia", the one said, "But I don't want to go...too many Muslims there!"

The Muslim family noticeably heard and grew uncomfortable.

The other one laughed, "Oh, yes, my boss wanted to send me to Pakistan but I refused...WAY too many Muslims!"

Smiling, the first man said, "One time I was in Iran but I HATED the fact that there were so many Muslims!"

The family fidgeted.

The other guy responded, "Oh, yeah...you can't go ANYWHERE to get away from them...the last time I was in France I ran into a bunch of them too!"

The first guy was laughing hysterically as he added, "That is why you'll never see me in Indonesia...WAY too many Muslims!"

At this, the Muslim man turned around and responded politely, "Why don't you go to Hell?" he asked.

Obviously the two men got very angry.

But before they could say anything, the Muslim man spoke, "Please don't get me wrong. It was just a suggestion. Since you don't like Muslims, I heard there are not many Muslims THERE!"

Where Are The Barbers?

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things on various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said, "I don't believe that God exists." "Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out into the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just as he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and a very long beard. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again. Upon entering, he said to he barber, "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! " answered the barber. "What happens is that people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there is so much pain and suffering in the world."

Who won?

There was a professor of philosophy who was a deeply committed atheist. His primary goal for one required class was to spend the entire semester attempting to prove that God couldn't exist. His students were always afraid to argue with him because of his impeccable logic. For twenty years, he had taught this class and no one had ever had the courage to go against him.

Sure, some had argued in class at times, but no one had ever really gone against him because of his reputation. At the end of every semester on the last day, he would say to his class of 300 students,

"If there is anyone here who still believes in God, stand up!"

In twenty years, no one had ever stood up. They knew what he was going to do next. He would say, "Because anyone who believes in God is a fool. If God existed, he could stop this piece of chalk from hitting the ground and breaking. Such a simple task to prove that He is God, and yet He can't do it!"

And every year, he would drop the chalk onto the tiled floor of the classroom and it would shatter into hundreds of pieces. All of the students would do nothing but stop and stare. Most of the students thought that God couldn't exist. Certainly, a number of Christians had slipped through, but for 20 years, they had been too afraid to stand up. Well, a few years ago there was a freshman who happened to enrol. He was a Muslim, and had heard the stories about his professor. He was

required to take the class for his major, and he was afraid. But for three months that semester, he prayed every morning that he would have the courage to stand up no matter what the professor said, or what the class thought. Nothing they said could ever shatter his faith...he hoped. Finally, the day came. The professor said, "If there is anyone here who still believes in God, stand up!" The freshman stood up. The professor and the class of 300 people looked at him, shocked. The professor shouted, "You FOOL!!! If God existed, he would keep this piece of chalk from breaking when it hits the ground!"

He proceeded to drop the chalk, but as he did, it slipped out of his fingers, off his shirt cuff, onto the pleat of his pants, down his leg, and off his shoe. As it hit the ground, it simply rolled away unbroken. The professor's jaw dropped as he stared at the chalk. He looked up at the young man, and then ran out of the lecture hall.

Funny Things and Good Things

Mistakes

- If a barber makes a mistake, it is a new style...
- If a driver makes a mistake, it is an accident...
- If a doctor makes a mistake, it is an operation...
- If an engineer makes a mistake, it is a new venture...
- If a politician makes a mistake, it is a new law...
- If a scientist makes a mistake, it is a new invention...
- If a tailor makes a mistake, it is a new fashion...
- If a teacher makes a mistake, it is a new theory...
- If your boss makes a mistake, it is your mistake....!

Interesting General Knowledge

Automobile

George Seldon received a patent in 1895 - for the automobile. Four years later, George sold the rights for $200,000.

Eye Glasses

The Chinese invented eyeglasses. Marco Polo reported seeing many pairs worn by the Chinese as early as 1275 - 500 years before lens grinding became an art in the West.

Glass

If hot water is suddenly poured into a glass that glass is more apt to break if it is thick than if it is thin.

Ships & Boats

- The cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth 2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.
- The world's oldest surviving boat is a simple 10 feet long dugout dated 7400 BC. It was discovered in Pesse Holland in the Netherlands.
- Rock drawings from the Red Sea site of Wadi Hammamat, dated to around 4000 BC show that Egyptian boats were made from papyrus and reeds.
- The world's earliest known plank-built ship, made from cedar and sycamore wood and dated to 2600 BC, was discovered next to the Great Pyramid in 1952.

- The Sumerians developed oar-powered ships in 3500 BC.
- The Phoenicians first used sails around 2000 BC.

Skyscraper

The term skyscraper was first used way back in 1888 to describe an eleven storied building.

Traffic Lights

Traffic lights were used before the advent of the motorcar. In 1868, a lantern with red and green signals was used at a London intersection to control the flow of horse buggies and pedestrians.

Smile Only

Tiger powder

One day a man was sprinkling some powder on the ground around his house.

"Assalaam-u-Alaikum, what are you doing?" a neighbour asked. "I want to keep the tigers away."

"But there are no tigers within hundreds of miles."

"Effective, isn't it?" the man replied.

Hamza and Abdur Rahman

One day Hamza and Abdur-Rahman went for a job interview, the boss came out of his office and gave them a test. Well, it took about two hours to finish the test. The boss picked up the tests and graded them. When he had finished, he came back out of his office and said, "You both did very well and passed the test. In fact you scored the same grade." Then he told Hamza he got the job. All of a sudden Abdur-Rahman jumped up and said, "Well wait, if we both scored the same grade, then why does Hamza get the job?" Then the boss said,

"Well because of your answers, for example, in question number 25, Hamza wrote, 'I don't know,' and you wrote, "Me neither."

The Striker and the Stricken

A certain man struck Zaid on the neck. Zaid rushed forward to settle the score with him.

"I have a question to ask you," said the assailant. "Answer me first, and then hit me back. I struck the nape of your neck; there was a sound of a slap. Now I have a question to ask you in all sincerity. The sound of that slap – was it caused by my hand or by the nape of your neck, highly honoured sir?"

Zaid replied, "Because of the pain I have not the leisure to stand and reflect on this matter impartially. Since you have no pain, you do the pondering!"

Snake Catcher and the Frozen Snake

A snake catcher went into the mountains to find a snake.

He wanted a friendly pet and one that would amaze audiences (with the purpose of using it for a show) but what he was looking forward to was a pet that was a reptile totally unable to be anyone's friend.

It was winter. In the deep snow he saw a frighteningly huge dead snake. He was afraid to touch it, but he did. In fact he dragged the thing into Baghdad, hoping that people would pay to see it.

"Come and see the snake I killed, and hear the adventures!" That's what he announced, and a large crowd came, but the snake was not dead. Just dormant!

He set up his show at a crossroad. The ring of gawking people got thicker, everybody on their toes, men and women, noble and peasant, all packed together unconscious of their differences. It was like the resurrection!

He began to unwind the thick ropes and remove the cloth coverings he'd wrapped it so well with.

The hot Iraqi sun had woken the snake and it started to move. The people standing nearest started screaming. Panic! The snake was set free, killing many instantly.

The snake catcher stood there, frozen. "What have I brought out of the mountains?" The snake braced against a post and crushed the man and consumed him.

The snake is your animal soul (nafs). When you bring it into the hot air of your wanting-energy, warmed by that and by the prospect of power and wealth, it does massive damage.

Let it live in the snowy mountains and never stimulate it with your unbridled desires.

Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام

Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام was the son of Hazrat Dawud عليه الصلاة والسلام. When Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام was just even as a young boy, he became well known and respected for his wisdom. When he became a man, Allah تبارك وتعالى made him, His Prophet. Allah تبارك وتعالى also taught him to understand the languages of birds and animals. Yet in spite of his wisdom and many wealthy possessions, Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام never forgot Allah تبارك وتعالى. He knew that all goodness comes from Allah تبارك وتعالى. Thus, he always told his people:

> "Thank Allah تبارك وتعالى for the good He has given you and for His generosity. Worship Allah تبارك وتعالى and do good deeds."

Once, Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام and his soldiers were passing through a valley inhabited by ants. Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام heard one ant say to another; "Quick, get out of the way and hide! Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام and his soldiers are coming, and they will trample on us and not even know they have done so!"

Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام, of course, was able to understand the ants' language. He smiled and ordered his soldiers to stay still and wait until all the ants had crawled away to safety. Then he prayed to Allah تبارك وتعالى:

"O Allah, help me in doing the right things so that You will be happy with me."

One day, Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام called all the birds to gather around him, but as he glanced through the flock, he noticed that the Hoopoe bird was not there. Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام waited for some time, and just as he was deciding not to wait any longer, the Hoopoe suddenly arrived, flying in and sat himself down next to Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام.

"I have come from a far-away city called Saba," the Hoopoe said. The people there are very rich and they have a Queen who sits on a magnificent throne. These people worship the sun and believe that they are right to treat the sun as God. But they are wrong, are they not? They will never find the right way to Allah تبارك وتعالى if they go on like that. Allah تبارك وتعالى is the only One Whom all creatures should worship."

Hazrat Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام then wrote a letter to the Queen of Saba and sent the Hoopoe to her.

When the Queen of Saba received the letter, she called all the wise men of the city to her.

"I have received a letter from Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام," said the Queen. "In it, Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام writes that we should believe in Allah تبارك وتعالى and worship only Him."

"What would you advise me to do?"

"We are very powerful and can wage war against Sulaiman عليه الصلاة والسلام, but you have to decide yourself what is to be done," the wise men answered.

"But a war could cause destruction to our city, and our best warriors will turn into cruel fighters," the Queen protested. "Therefore, I would prefer not to wage war. Instead, I will send Sulaiman عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام a present."

When the messengers of the Queen of Saba arrived with the present, they were surprised because Hazrat Sulaiman عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام became very angry.

"Why do you bring me these riches instead of listening to my advice?" Hazrat Sulaiman عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام scolded. "What Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى has given me is much better than all these riches. Go to your Queen and take her presents with you!"

When she heard that Hazrat Sulaiman عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام had refused her valuable gifts, the Queen of Saba, in her turn, was surprised. So, she decided to go to see Hazrat Sulaiman عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام for herself. She called her people and made preparations for the journey to Hazarat Sulaiman's عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام city.

When the Queen arrived, Hazrat Sulaiman عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام explained to her about Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى and she realized how wrong she had been to worship the sun. "You are right," she told Hazrat Sulaiman عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام, "from now on, I shall worship only Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى. He is our only Lord and we should obey only Him."

(Tafseer Ibn-e-Abi HatimVol. 11 page 108, An-Namal: 28)

Short Stories

A lying frog

A frog, once upon a time, came forth from his home in the marsh and proclaimed to all the beasts that he was a learned physician, skilled in the use of drugs and able to heal all diseases. A Fox asked him, "How can you pretend to prescribe for others, when you are unable to heal your own lame gait and wrinkled skin?"

The Hart in the Ox-Stal

A Hart hotly pursued by the hounds fled for refuge into an ox-stall, and buried itself in a truss of hay, leaving nothing to be seen but the tips of his horns. Soon after the hunters came up and asked if any one had seen the hart. The stable boys, who had been resting after their dinner, looked round, but could see nothing, and the hunters went away. Shortly afterwards the master came in, and while looking around, fell that something unusual had taken place. He pointed to the truss of hay and said, "What are those two curious things sticking out of the hay?" And when the stable boys came to look they discovered the hart, and soon made an end of him. They thus learnt that: Nothing escapes the master's eye.

Fate

A king, whose only son was fond of martial exercises, had a dream in which he was warned that his son would be killed by a lion. Afraid the dream should prove true, he built for his son a pleasant palace and adorned its walls for his amusement with all kinds of life-sized animals, among which was the picture of a lion. When the young prince saw this, his grief at being thus confined burst out afresh, and, standing near the lion, he said, "O you most detestable of animals! Through a dream of my father's, which he saw in his sleep, I am shut up on your account in this palace as if I had been a girl. What shall I now do to you?" With these words he stretched out his hands toward a thorn-tree, meaning to cut a stick from its branches so that he might beat the lion. But one of the tree's prickles pierced his finger and caused great pain and inflammation, so that the young prince fell down in a fainting fit. A violent fever suddenly set in, from which he died not many days later.

The Old Woman and the Physician

An old woman having lost her eyes, called in a physician to heal them, and made this bargain with him in the presence of witnesses, that if he should cure her blindness, he should receive from her a sum of money; but if her condition remained, she should give him nothing. This agreement being made, the physician, time after time, applied his salve to her eyes, and on every visit took something away, stealing all her property little by little. And when he had got all she had, he healed her and demanded the promised payment. The old woman, when she recovered

her sight and saw none of her goods in her house, would give him nothing. The physician insisted on his claim, and as she still refused, summoned her before the judge. The old woman, standing up in the court, argued, "This man here speaks the truth in what he says; for I did promise to give him a sum of money if I should recover my sight, but if I continued blind, I was to give him nothing. Now he declares that I am healed. I on the contrary affirm that I am still blind; for when I lost the use of my eyes, I saw in my house various chattels and valuable goods, but now, though he swears I am cured of my blindness, I am not able to see a single thing in it."

Nature Can't Be Hidden

A scorpion and a frog meet on the bank of a stream and the scorpion asks the frog to carry him across on its back. The frog asks, "How do I know you won't sting me?" The scorpion says, "Because if I do, I will die too."

The frog is satisfied, and they set out, but in midstream, the scorpion stings the frog. The frog feels the onset of paralysis and starts to sink, knowing they both will drown, but has just enough time to gasp "Why?"

Replies the scorpion: "It's my nature..."

Bad Friends Hurt More

A sick stag was lying down in a quiet corner of its pasture-ground. His companions came in great numbers to inquire after his health, and each one helped himself to a share of the food that had been placed for his use; so that he died, not from his sickness, but from the failure of the means of living.

The Rose Within

A certain man planted a rose and watered it faithfully and before it blossomed, he examined it.

He saw the bud that would soon blossom, but noticing thorns upon the stem he thought,

"How can any beautiful flower come from a plant burdened with so many sharp thorns?" Saddened by this thought, he neglected to water the rose, and just before it was ready to bloom... it died.

So it is with many people. Within every soul there is a rose. The good qualities planted in us at birth, grow amid the thorns of our faults. Many of us look at ourselves and see only the thorns, the defects.

We despair, thinking that nothing good can possibly come from us. We neglect to water the good within us, and eventually it dies. We never realize our potential.

Some people do not see the rose within themselves; someone else must show it to them. One of the greatest gifts a person can possess is to be able to reach past the thorns of another, and find the rose within them.

This is one of the characteristics of love... to look at a person, know their true faults and accepting that person into your life... all the while recognizing the nobility in their soul. Help others to realize they can overcome their faults. If we show them the "rose" within themselves, they will conquer their thorns. Only then will they blossom many times over.

One Good Turn

An eagle swooped down upon a serpent and seized it in his talons with the intention of carrying it off and devouring it. But the serpent was too quick for him and had its coils round him within a moment; and then there ensued a life-and-death struggle between the two. A countryman, who was a witness of the encounter, came to the assistance of the eagle, and succeeded in freeing him from the serpent and enabling him to escape. In revenge, the serpent spat some of his poison into the man's drinking-horn. Heated with his exertions, the man was about to slake his thirst with a draught from the horn, when the eagle again swooped down, knocked it out of his hand, and spilled its contents upon the ground.

The Snake and the Labourer

A snake, having made his hole close to the porch of a cottage, inflicted a mortal bite on the cottager's infant son. Grieving over his loss, the father resolved to kill the snake. The next day, when it came out of its hole for food, he took up his axe, but by swinging too hastily, missed its

head and cut off only the end of its tail. After some time the cottager, afraid that the snake would bite him also, endeavoured to make peace, and placed some bread and salt in the hole. The snake, slightly hissing, said,"from today there can be no peace between us; for whenever I see you I shall remember the loss of my tail, and whenever you see me you will be thinking of the death of your son."

Destroy the Seeds of Evil

It happened that a countryman was sowing some hemp seeds in a field where a swallow and some other birds were hopping about picking up their food.

"Beware of that man," said the swallow.

"Why, what is he doing?" said the others. "That is hemp seed he is sowing; be careful to pick up every one of the seeds, or else you will regret it."

The birds paid no heed to the swallow's words, and by and by the hemp grew up and was made into cord, and the cord nets were made and many birds that had ignored the swallow's advice were caught in nets made out of that very hemp.

"I told you so," said the swallow.

Misery Loves Company

A fox, caught in a trap, escaped, but in doing so, lost his tail. Thereafter, feeling his life a burden from the shame and ridicule to which he was exposed, he schemed to convince all the other foxes that being tailless was much more attractive, thus making up for his own loss. He assembled a good many foxes and publicly advised them to cut off their tails, saying that they would not only look much better without them, but that they would get rid of the weight of the brush, which was a very great inconvenience. One of them, interrupting him said, "If you had not yourself lost your tail, my friend, you would not thus advise us."

The Fox and the Mask

A fox had by some means got into the storeroom of a theatre. Suddenly he observed a face glaring down at him and began to be very frightened; but looking more closely he found it was only a mask such as actors use to put over their face.

"Ah!" said the fox, "You look very fine; it is a pity you have not got any brains. Your outer appearance is of no use if the inside is empty."

A False Tale often betrays itself

A fox and a monkey were travelling together on the same road. As they journeyed, they passed through a cemetery full of monuments. "All these monuments which you see, are erected in honour of my ancestors,

who were in their day freed men and citizens of great renown," said the monkey.The fox replied, "You have chosen a most appropriate subject for your falsehoods, as I am sure none of your ancestors would be able to contradict you."

Some Men Are More Worthy in Their Own Eyes than in the Eyes of Their Neighbours

A gnat settled on the horn of a bull, and sat there for a long time. Just as he was about to fly off, he made a buzzing noise, and inquired of the bull if he would like him to go. The bull replied, "I did not know you had come, and I shall not miss you when you are away."

Golden Eggs

One day, a countryman, going to the nest of his goose found there an egg all yellow and glittering. When he took it up, it was as heavy as lead and he decided to throw it away, because he thought a trick had been played upon him. But he took it home on second thought, and soon found to his delight that it was an egg of pure gold. Every morning the same thing occurred, and he soon became rich by selling his eggs. As he grew rich, he grew greedy; and thinking to get at once all the gold the goose could give, he killed it and opened it only to find nothing.

Count the Cost before You Commit Yourselves

The hares waged war with the eagles, and called upon the foxes to help them. They replied, "We would willingly have helped you, if we had not known who you were, and with whom you were fighting."

Last Laugh is the Best Laugh

A heifer saw an ox hard at work harnessed to a plough, and tormented him with reflections on his unhappy fate in being compelled to labour. Shortly afterwards, at the harvest festival, the owner released the ox from his yoke, but bound the heifer with cords and led her away to the altar to be slain in honour of the occasion. The ox saw what was being done, and said with a smile to the heifer, "For this you were allowed to live in idleness, because you were going to be sacrificed."

Less Grooming, More Feeding

A groom used to spend whole days in grooming and rubbing down his horse, but at the same time, stole his oats and sold them for his own profit.

"Alas!" said the horse, "If you really wish me to be in good condition, you should groom me less, and feed me more."

Enthusiasm Comes With Motivation

A hound started chasing a hare, but after a long run, gave up the chase. A goat herd seeing him stop, mocked him, saying, "The little one is the best runner of the two."

The hound replied, "You do not see the difference between us, I was only running for a dinner, but he for his life."

Abstain and Enjoy

A huntsman, returning with his dogs from the field, met by chance a fisherman who was bringing home a basket well laden with fish. The huntsman wished to have the fish, and the owner of the fish experienced an equal longing for the contents of the game-bag. They quickly agreed to exchange the products of their day's sport. Each was so well pleased with his bargain that they made for some time the same exchange day after day. Finally a neighbour said to them, "If you go on in this way, you will soon destroy by frequent use the pleasure of your exchange, and each will again wish to retain the fruits of his own sport."

The Ignorant Despise What Is Precious Only Because They Cannot Understand It

A rooster, scratching for food, for himself and his hens, found a precious stone and exclaimed, "If your owner had found you, and not I, he would have picked you up, and would have set you in your first estate;

but I have found you for no purpose. I would rather have one barleycorn than all the jewels in the world."

Pride Comes Before a fall

Two game roosters were fiercely fighting for the mastery of the farmyard. One at last froced the other to run away. The defeated rooster skulked away and hid himself in a quiet corner, while the winner, flying up to a high wall, flapped his wings and crowed exultingly with all his might. An eagle sailing through the air pounced upon him and carried him off in his talons. The deafeated rooster immediately came out of his corner, and ruled from then with undisputed mastery.

Example Is More Powerful than Precept

A crab said to her son, "Why do you walk so one-sided, my child? It is far more becoming to go straight forward." The young crab replied, "Quite true, dear mother; and if you will show me the straight way, I will promise to walk on it." The mother tried in vain, and submitted without protest to the balme of her child.

The Four Wives

There was a rich merchant who had four wives. He loved the fourth wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to delicacies. He took great care of her and gave her nothing but the best.

He also loved the third wife very much. He was very proud of her and always wanted to show her off to his friends. However, the merchant was always in great fear that she might run away with some other men.

He also loved his second wife. She was a considerate person, always patient and in fact was the merchant's confidante. Whenever the merchant faced some problems, he always turned to his second wife and she would always help him out and guide him through difficult times.

Now, the merchant's first wife was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and business as well as taking care of the household. However, the merchant did not love the first wife and although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her.

One day, the merchant fell ill. Before long, he knew that he was going to die soon. He thought of his luxurious life and told himself, "Now I have four wives with me. But when I die, I'll be alone. How lonely I'll be!"

Thus, he asked the fourth wife, "I loved you most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep my company?"

"No way!" replied the fourth wife and she walked away without another word.

The answer cut like a sharp knife right into the merchant's heart. The sad merchant then asked the third wife, "I have loved you so much all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"No!" replied the third wife. "Life is so good over here! I'm going to remarry when you die!" The merchant's heart sank and turned cold.

He then asked the second wife, "I always turned to you for help and you have always helped me out. Now I need your help again. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!" replied the second wife. "At the very most, I can only send you to your grave." The answer came like a bolt of thunder and the merchant was devastated.

Then a voice called out, "I'll leave with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go." The merchant looked up and there was his first wife. She was so skinny, almost as if she was suffering from malnutrition. Greatly grieved, the merchant said, "I should have taken much better care of you while I could have!"

Actually, we all have four wives in our lives

The fourth wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good, it'll leave us when we die.

Our third wife? Our possessions, status and wealth. When we die they all go to others.

The second wife is our family and friends. No matter how close they had been there for us when we're alive, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave.

The first wife is in fact our deeds, often neglected in our pursuit of material, wealth and sensual pleasure.

Guess what? This is actually the only thing that follows us wherever we go. Perhaps it's a good idea to cultivate and strengthen it now rather than to wait until we're on our deathbed to lament.

The 99 Club

Some time ago, there lived a king. This king should have been contented with his life, given all the riches and luxuries he had. However, this was not the case! The king always found himself wondering why he just never seemed content with his life.

Sure, he had the attention of everyone wherever he went, attended fancy dinners and parties, but somehow, he still felt something was lacking and he couldn't put his finger on it.

One day, the king woke up earlier than usual to stroll around his palace. He entered his huge living room and came to a stop when he heard someone happily singing away... following this singing... he saw that one of the servants was singing and had a very contented look on his face. This fascinated the king and he summoned this man to his chambers.

The man entered the king's chambers as ordered. The king asked why he was so happy. To this the man replied, "Your majesty, I am nothing but a servant, but I make enough of a living to keep my wife and children happy. We don't need too much, a roof over our heads and food to fill our tummy. My wife and children are my inspiration; they are content with whatever little I bring home. I am happy because my family is happy."

Hearing this, the king dismissed the servant and summoned his personal assistant to his chambers.

The king related his personal anguish about his feelings and then related the story of the servant to his personal assistant, hoping that somehow, he would be able to come up with some reasoning that here was a king who could have anything he wished for at a snap of his fingers and yet was not contented, whereas, his servant, having so little was extremely content.

The personal assistant listened attentively and came to a conclusion. He said, "Your majesty, I believe that the servant has not been made part of The 99 Club."

"The 99 Club? And what exactly is that?" the king inquired. To which the assistant replied, "Your Majesty, to truly know what The 99 Club is, you will have to do the following... place 99 gold coins in a bag and leave it at this servant's doorstep, you will then understand what The 99 Club is."

That very same evening, the king arranged for 99 gold coins to be placed in a bag at the servant's doorstep. Although he was slightly hesitant and he thought he should have put 100 Gold coins into the bag, but since his assistant had advised him to put 99 that is what he did.

The servant was just stepping out of his house when he saw a bag at his doorstep. Wondering about its contents, he took it into his house and opened the bag. When he opened the bag, he let out a great big shout of joy...gold coins... so many of them. He could hardly believe it. He called his wife to show her the coins.

He then took the bag to a table and emptied it out and began to count the coins. Doing so, he realized that there were 99 coins and he thought it was an odd number so he counted again, and again and again only to come to the same conclusion.. . 99 gold coins.

He began to wonder, what could have happened to that last 1 coin? For no one would leave 99 coins. He began to search his entire house, looked around his backyard for hours, not wanting to lose out on that one coin. Finally, exhausted, he decided that he was going to have to work harder than ever to make up for that 1 gold coin to make his entire collection an even 100 gold coins.

He got up the next morning, in an extremely horrible mood, shouting at the children and his wife for his delay, not realizing that he had spent most of the night conjuring ways of working hard so that he had enough money to buy himself that gold coin. He went to work as usual - but not in his usual best mood, singing happily - as he grumpily did his daily chores.

Seeing the man's attitude change so drastically, the king was puzzled. He promptly summoned his assistant to his chambers. The king related his thoughts about the servant and once again, his assistant listened. The king could not believe that the servant who till yesterday had been singing away and was happy and content with his life had taken a sudden change of attitude, even though he should have been happier after receiving the gold coins.

To this the assistant replied "Ah! But your majesty, the servant has now officially joined The 99 Club." He explained: "The 99 Club is just a name given to those people who have everything but yet are never content, therefore they are always working hard and striving for that extra 1 to round it out to 100!

We have so much to be thankful for and we can live with very little in our lives, but the minute we are given something bigger and better, we want even more! We are not the same happy contented person we used to be, we want more and more and by wanting more and more we don't realize the price we pay for it.

We lose our sleep, our happiness; we hurt the people around us just as a price to pay for our growing needs and desires. That is what joining "The 99 Club" is all about."

Hearing this, the king decided that from that day onwards, he was going to start appreciating all the little things in life.

To be content and satisfied with what one has, is the greatest boon which one has received due the thanks he had been offering to Allah تبارك وتعالى for what he has received from him.

Mystery of the Bed Number

There was a case in one hospital's intensive care unit where patients always died on the same bed and on Sunday morning at 11 a.m., regardless of their medical condition. This puzzled the doctors and some even thought that it had something to do with ghosts etc.

People did not want to admit their near and dear ones in the Intensive Care Unit bed number 1, of Patients' Welfare Hospital.

Some thought that there must be a ghost of a patient who might have died a long time ago at 11 a.m. on a Sunday.

A national team of experts was formed. There were doctors, biotechnology experts, scholars, hospital staff, government representatives and crime investigators in the team of twenty-seven people. They held long meetings and discussions.

Finally they decided to go down to the ward to investigate the cause of the incidents.

So, the next Sunday morning, a few minutes before 11 a.m, all doctors and nurses nervously waited outside the ward; the crime investigators, experts and other people hid inside to see for themselves, what the terrible phenomenon was all about.

Some were holding prayer books and others were reciting prayers to ward off the evil spirits. Some were even ready with guns and handcuffs...

Just then the clock struck 11 and................

...Sachhal, the part-time Sunday cleaner, entered the ward and unplugged the life support system so that he could use the vacuum cleaner...

Biological Potatoes

An old Arab man lived alone in a city of USA. He wanted to dig up his potato garden, but it was very hard work. The FBI was holding his only son, Abdul, who used to help him.

The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Abdul,

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't able to plant my potato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would have been over. I know you would have dug the plot for me.

Your Dad,
Mohammad.

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

For heaven's sake, don't dig up that garden, that's where I buried the biological weapons.

Love,
Abdul

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police showed up and dug up the entire area without finding any weapons. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

Go ahead and plant the potatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love,
Abdul

The Professor and the Student (Part 1)

"Let me explain the problem science, has with God," the atheist professor of philosophy pauses before his class and then asks one of his new students to stand.

"You're a believer in God, aren't you, son?"

"Yes sir," the student says.

"So you believe in God?"

"Absolutely."

"Is God good?"

"Sure! God's good."

"Is God all-powerful? Can God do anything?"

"Yes."

"Are you good or evil?"

"The teaching says that I'm evil."

The professor grins knowingly. He considers for a moment.

"Here's one for you. Let's say there's a sick person over here and you can cure him. You can do it. Would you help him? Would you try?"

"Yes sir, I would."

"So you're good...!"

"I wouldn't say that."

"But why not say that? You'd help a sick and maimed person if you could. Most of us would if we could. But God doesn't."

The student does not answer, so the professor continues. "Does he? My brother was a believer who died of cancer, even though he prayed to God to heal him. How is this God good? Hmmm? Can you answer that one?"

The student remains silent.

"No, you can't, can you?" the professor says. He takes a sip of water from a glass on his desk to give the student time to relax.

"Let's start again, young fellow. Is God good?"

"Er... Yes," the student says.

"Is Satan good?"

The student doesn't hesitate on this one. "No."

"Then where does Satan come from?"

The student falters. "From... God..."

"That's right. God made Satan, didn't he? Tell me, son. Is there evil in this world?"

"Yes, sir."

"Evil's everywhere, isn't it? And God did make everything, correct?"

"Yes."

"So who created evil?"

Again, the student has no answer.

"Is there sickness? Immorality? Hatred? Ugliness? All these terrible things, do they exist in this world?" The student squirms on his feet.

"Yes."

"So who created them?"

The student does not answer again, so the professor repeats his question.

"Who created them?"

There is still no answer. Suddenly the lecturer breaks away to pace in front of the classroom. The class is mesmerized.

"Tell me," he continues. "Do you believe in God, son?"

The student's voice betrays him and cracks. "Yes, professor. I do."

The old man stops pacing.

"Science says you have five senses you use to identify and observe the world around you. Have you ever seen God?"

"No, Sir. I've never seen Him."

"Then tell us if you've ever heard your God?"

"No, Sir. I have not."

"Have you ever felt your God, tasted your God or smelt your God? Have you ever had any sensory perception of God?

"No, Sir, I'm afraid I haven't."

"Yet you still believe in Him?"

"Yes."

"According to the rules of empirical, testable, demonstrable protocol, science says your God doesn't exist. What do you say to that, son?

"Nothing," the student replies. "I only have my faith."

"Yes, faith," the professor repeats. "And that is the problem science has with God. There is no evidence, only, faith."

The Professor and the Student (Part 2)

The student stands quietly for a moment, before asking a question of his own.

"Professor, is there such a thing as heat?"

"Yes," the professor replies. "There's heat."

"And is there such a thing as cold?"

"Yes, son, there's cold too."

"No sir, there isn't."

The professor turns to face the student, obviously interested. The room suddenly becomes very quiet. The student begins to explain.

"You can have lots of heat, even more heat, super-heat, mega-heat, white heat, a little heat or no heat, but we don't have anything called 'cold'. We can hit 375 °C degrees below zero, which is no heat, but we can't go any further after that. There is no such thing as cold; otherwise we would be able to go colder than -375 °C. You see, sir, cold is only a word we use to describe the absence of heat. We cannot measure cold. Heat we can measure in thermal units because heat is energy. Cold is not the opposite of heat, sir, just the absence of it."

Silence across the room! A pen drops somewhere in the classroom, sounding like a hammer.

"What about darkness, professor. Is there such a thing as darkness?"

"Yes," the professor replies without hesitation. "What is night if it isn't darkness?"

"You're wrong again, sir. Darkness is not something; it is the absence of something. You can have low light, normal light, bright light, flashing light... but if you have no light constantly you have nothing and its called darkness, isn't it? That's the meaning we use to define the word. In reality, darkness is nothing. If it were, you would be able to make darkness darker, wouldn't you?"

The professor begins to smile at the student in front of him. This will be a good semester.

"So what point are you making, young man?"

"Yes, professor. My point is, your philosophical premise is flawed to start with and so your conclusion must also be flawed."

The professor's face cannot hide his surprise this time.

"Flawed? Can you explain how?"

"You are working on the premise of duality," the student explains. "You argue that there is life and then there's death; a good God and a bad God. You are viewing the concept of God as something finite, something we can measure. Sir, science can't even explain a thought. It uses electricity and magnetism, but has never seen, much less fully understood either one. To view death as the opposite of life is to be ignorant of the fact that death cannot exist as a substantive thing. Death is not the

opposite of life, just the absence of it. Now tell me, professor. Do you teach your students that they evolved from a monkey?"

"If you are referring to the natural evolutionary process, young man, yes, of course I do."

"Have you ever observed evolution with your own eyes, sir?"

The professor begins to shake his head, still smiling, as he realizes where the argument is going. A very good semester indeed!

"Since no one has ever observed the process of evolution at work and cannot even prove that this process is an on-going endeavour, are you not teaching your opinion, sir? Are you now not a scientist, but a preacher? To continue the point you were making earlier to the other students, let me give you an example of what I mean."

The student looks around the room. "Is there anyone in the class who has ever seen the professor's brain?" The class breaks out into laughter. "Is there anyone here who has ever heard the professor's brain, felt the professor's brain, touched or smelled the professor's brain? No! So, according to the established rules of empirical, stable, demonstrable protocol, science says that you have no brain, with all due respect, sir. So if science says you have no brain, how can we trust your lectures, sir?"

Now the room is silent. Finally, after what seems an eternity, the old man answers,

"I guess you'll have to take them on faith."

Allah تبارك وتعالى

Allah sees everything

If dad and mom are out

Don't mess around

Because He sees you still

Allah sees everything

Allah hears everything

Don't act cool when alone

And say bad things

Because He hears you still

Allah hears everything

Allah knows everything

When you plan a sin

Don't think wrong things

Because He knows still

Allah knows everything

Allah helps in every way

If you're hurt while playing

Or lose your lunch again

Allah helps you in every way

Allah Helps in every way

Allah gives you blessings

When you are hungry

When you need a pen or a pencil

Allah sends plenty of things

Allah gives you blessings

Allah loves you most

When you are down

Nobody cares anymore

Allah still loves you a lot

Allah loves you the most.

Angels

Angel Jibrail brought Allah's words to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and therefore we call Jibrail the Messenger Angel. There are many other angels and we can read about them in the Quran.

Each of us has two angels who accompany us. These angels take note of everything we do. They write down our good deeds and our bad deeds. We call these angels the Writing Angels (Kiraamun Katibeen). There are other angels, too. For example, there is an angel who helps people when they die. This angel brings death, so we call him the Angel of Death Izarael عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام.

We cannot see the angels because they are made up of stuff which our eyes cannot see. But all the same, we know that they are there, because Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى has told us so. Sometimes, we can even feel the presence of these angels.

Angels are created by Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى, just as man and everything else has been created by Him. Angels obey Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى and are His servants. They perform many tasks and sustain the world with Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى's command.

We know when the sun rises and sets, when the clouds move in the sky, when the raindrops fall, when the plants grow and many other things happen in nature, it is Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى Who has created them all and Allah Who sustains them. Nothing can happen without Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى's

will. In the same way, Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى created the angels who obey Him. They carry out His will, and take great care that everything goes according to Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى's will. They are the obedient servants of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى.

Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى wanted man to obey Him, to pray to Him and do good deeds. He wanted man to know about Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى. That is why Angel Jibrail was sent by Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى. Angel Jibrail told Muhammad ﷺ what Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى wanted man to do. This was Jibrail's task. Through Angel Jibrail, Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى had spoken to many prophets before Muhammad ﷺ, so that man would remember and not forget what Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى wants him to do.

Khalifah and the Learned Sahabi (Part 1)

During one of his visits to Madinah, the Umayyid Khalifah Sulayman Ibn Abdul-Malik (54 - 99 A.H.) wanted to meet someone who had lived with a companion of the Prophet ﷺ if such a man was still alive. Sulayman's most meritorious act was that he had nominated Syedna Umar bin Abdul Aziz as the next Khalifah. Overall because of his good character he was known as Miftahul Khair (Key to goodness). On being informed that Abu Hazim was the only such person, he sent for him. Here is the conversation that followed.

Sulayman first complained that Abu Hazim had shown discourtesy by not coming to meet him on his own. Abu Hazim replied,

"O' Chief of the Muslims, may Allah تبارك وتعالى protect you from saying something that is not true. You did not know my name before today, nor had I ever seen you. How could then I have come to meet you?" As Sulayman looked around, Imam Zuhri said:

"Abu Hazim is right."

He then continued, "Abu Hazim, how is it that I don't like to die?"

"The reason is simple. You have decorated and embellished this world, and turned your abode in the other world into a desert. Naturally, you don't like to leave a flourishing city for a desert."

Sulayman: "What would it be like when we appear before Allah تبارك وتعالى tomorrow?"

Abu Hazim, "The man who has been doing good deeds will appear before Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى like a man who returns from a journey to his loved ones, while the man who has been doing evil deeds will appear like a runaway slave who has now been brought back to his master."

Sulayman burst into tears, and said with a sigh, "I wish we could know how Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى would deal with us." Abu Hazim replied,

"Assess your deeds in the light of the Book of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى, and you will know.

"Which verse of the Holy Qur'an can help us do so?"

"Here is the verse:

> "Surely the righteous will be in bliss, and the sinners in Hell."[Al-Infitar: 82:13-14]

Sulayman, "Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى's mercy is great; it can cover even the wrong-doers." Abu Hazim replied with another verse:

> "Surely, the Mercy of Allah is close to those who are good in their deeds." [Al-A'raf: 7:56]

There are many who try to justify their crooked ways using this argument. This gentle reminder may help rid them of their complacency. We should first change our behavior so we can deserve Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى's mercy. Then we should hope for it.

Sulayman continued, "Tell me, Abu Hazim, who are the most honourable among the servants of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى?"

"Those who are mindful of their fellow-human beings, and possess the right kind of understanding to know the truth."

Khalifah and the Learned Sahabi (Part 2)

Sulayman, "Which is best among good deeds?"

Abu Hazim, "Fulfilling the obligations laid down by Allah تبارك وتعالى, and keeping away from what He has forbidden." This answer is important in setting our priorities right. For many a time people pay attention to nawafil (voluntary deeds) while ignoring faraid (obligatory deeds) and indulging in sins.

"Which supplication (dua) is likely to be accepted by Allah تبارك وتعالى?"

"The dua of a man for you, for whom you have done some good."

"What is the best form of charity?"

"Giving as much as one can, in spite of one's own need, to a man in misery without trying to make him feel grateful and without torturing him with reminders of your favours."

"Which is the best form of speech?"

"Speaking the truth plainly and unreservedly before the man who can harm you in some way or from whom you expect a favour."

"What kind of man is the wisest?"

"He whose actions are governed by obedience to Allah تبارك وتعالى, and who invites others as well to it."

"What kind of man is the most foolish?"

"He who helps another man in committing some injustice, which means that he is exchanging his iman for the worldly gains of the other person."

Sulayman agreed with all this and then asked him pointedly, "What do you think of me?" Abu Hazim wanted to be excused from replying to such a direct question, but Sulayman insisted. Abu Hazim said, "O chief of the Muslims, your forefathers ..... departed from the world. I wish you could know what they themselves are saying after their death and what people are saying about them."

Fearing that Sulayman might be displeased by such straight talk, one of his courtiers rebuked Abu Hazim for having spoken so rudely. He replied, "No, you are wrong. I have not said anything rude but only what Allah تبارك وتعالى has commanded us to say. For Allah تبارك وتعالى has enjoined upon the 'ulama' to speak the truth before the people and not to conceal it." And he recited this verse of the Holy Qur'an:

"You shall make it clear to the people and not conceal it."

[Aal-i-'Imran: 3:187]

Sulayman then asked, "Alright how can we reform ourselves now?"

Abu Hazim, "Give up your pride, acquire a spirit of fellow-feeling for the people, and give them justly what is due to them."

"Well, is there anything you need? What can we do for you'?"

"Yes, I have a need. Please help me to save myself from Hell and to enter Paradise."

"This is not in my power."

"Then, there is nothing you can do for me."

Upon Sulayman's request Abu Hazim made this prayer for him, "O Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ, if you approve of Sulayman, make the well-being of this world and the next easy for him; but if he is your enemy, drag him by his hair towards the deeds you approve of."

At the end of their meeting Sulayman asked him for some special advice. Abu Hazim said, "I shall make it short. You should have so much fear of your Lord and reverence for Him that He never finds you present at the place He has forbidden, and never finds you absent from the place where He has commanded you to be."

Interesting Facts

- Contrary to popular belief, a swallowed chewing gum doesn't stay in the throat or stomach. It will pass through the system and be excreted.
- There is a hotel in Sweden built entirely out of ice; it is rebuilt every year.
- Cats, camels and giraffes are the only animals in the world that walk: Rightfoot, right foot, left foot, left foot, rather than right foot, left foot...
- Onions help reduce cholesterol if eaten after a fatty meal.
- The sound you hear when you crack your knuckles is actually the sound of nitrogen gas bubbles bursting.
- In most watch advertisements the time displayed on the watch is 10:10 because then the arms frame the brand of the watch and make it look like its smiling.
- Depending upon the shade, the brain may send up to 11 tranquilizing chemicals to calm the body.
- Leonardo Da Vinci could write with the one hand and draw with the other simultaneously. Now we know why his pictures were exquisite!!

- The only 15-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.
- Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age
- Electricity doesn't move through a wire but through a field around the wire.
- All U.S. Presidents have worn glasses; some of them just didn't like to be seen wearing them in public.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, and purple.
- Raw cashews are poisonous and must be roasted before eating.

Lao-Tzu's Quotes of Wisdom

Seek not happiness too greedily, and be not fearful of happiness.

He who knows others is wise; He who knows himself is enlightened.

I have three treasures. I guard and keep them:

The first is deep love,

The second is frugality,

And the third is not to dare to be ahead of the world.

Because of deep love, one is courageous.

Because of frugality, one is generous.

Because of not daring to be ahead of the world, one becomes the leader of the world.

Manifest plainness, Embrace simplicity, Reduce selfishness, Have few desires.

There is no calamity greater than lavish desires.

There is no greater guilt than discontentment.

And there is no greater disaster than greed.

To know that you do not know is the best.

To pretend to know when you do not know is a disease.

When the people of the world all know beauty as beauty, there arises the recognition of ugliness.

When they all know the good as good, there arises the recognition of evil.

Akbar's Childishness

Akbar was a Mughal King of India. Many regard him as clever, bold and shower praises on him. One of his ministers, Birbil is often regarded as foolish. However, the facts are quite different. Akbar was not a very clever person; he was not even fit to be a King. So we will see in this story.

Emperor Akbar asked Berbil one day, "This famous saying that 'it is difficult to fulfil the demands of three persons: A king's, a lady's and a child's.' I fail to understand! I accept that a king or lady might ask for something, which is difficult to fulfil, but a child, I mean what could a child possibly ask for which could not be fulfilled?"

Berbil replied, "The reality is, that a child's obstinacy is 'the' most difficult, requiring great wisdom which is not possible for everybody!"

Akbar, "What need is there for wisdom, anybody could fulfil a child's demand!"

Berbil, "Very well! I shall behave like a child! You fulfil my tantrums."

Akbar, "OK."

Consequently, Berbil began to sob like a child (these sort of foolish behaviour was common in Akbar's court).

Akbar asked, "Why are you crying?"

Berbil replied, "I want an elephant!"

Immediately, Akbar ordered an elephant from the Royal Stables and stated, "*Subhaanallah*! What difficult task did you request?"

Berbil started crying again.

"Why are you crying now?" asked Akbar.

"I want a small pot!" replied Berbil. Instantly, Akbar ordered a pot from the bazaar and commented, "What was so difficult about this then?"

Again, Berbil began to cry...

"What's up now?" asked Akbar.

"Place the elephant into the pot!" cried Berbil.

Dumbfounded, Akbar now realized how difficult it is to fulfil a child's tantrums. Puzzled Akbar commented, "You added that only a wise person could fulfil a child's obstinacy, well, how is that possible?"

Berbil replied, "If intelligence is present everything is easy!"

Akbar added, "Very well, now I shall behave like a child and you fulfil my demands!"

Accordingly, Akbar began to sob like a child.

"Why do you cry?" asked Berbil.

"I want an elephant" Berbil dispatched a servant to the market to purchase a 'toy' elephant. This was presented to Akbar. He started wailing again. Berbil asked,

"Why are you crying now?"

Akbar replied, "I want a pot."

Berbil arranged for a pot to be presented. Akbar cried again.

"What's up now?" asked Berbil.

"Put the elephant into the pot!" screamed Akbar.

Berbil obliged by placing the toy elephant into the pot. Akbar was now silenced. Berbil commented, "You displayed misjudgment in fulfilling the child's demand for an elephant by ordering a real animal from the stables. What you should do is fulfil a child's demands in accordance with what is appropriate for him or her."

What They Say

Sorry kids! No stories or jokes for now. But, there is a more interesting thing than that. Can you guess? Ok, I'll tell you. Today you will know what some of the Non-Muslims had to say about Rasullah ﷺ, Islam and Muslims. Yes! It is really interesting, so let's find out:

1. **Sir George Bernard Shaw in 'The Genuine Islam,' Vol. 1, No. 8, 1936.**

"If any religion had the chance of ruling over England, nay Europe within the next hundred years, it could be Islam."

"I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him - the wonderful man and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Saviour of Humanity."

"I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness: I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today."

2. **Bertrand Russel in 'History of Western Philosophy,' London, 1948, p. 419.**

"Our use of phrase 'The Dark Ages' to cover the period from 699 to 1,000 marks our undue concentration on Western Europe...

"From India to Spain, the brilliant civilization of Islam flourished. What was lost to Christendom at this time was not lost to that civilization, but quite the contrary...

"To us it seems that West-European civilization is the only civilization, but this is a narrow view."

3. Napolean Bonaparte as Quoted in Cherfils, 'Bonaparte et Islam,' Paris, France, pp. 105, 125.

"Arabia was idolatrous when, six centuries after Jesus, Muhammad introduced the worship of the God of Abraham, of Ishmael, of Moses, and Jesus. The Aryans and some other sects had disturbed the tranquillity of the east by agitating the question of the nature of the Father, the son, and the Holy Ghost. Muhammad declared that there was none but one God who had no father, no son and that the trinity imported the idea of idolatry...

"I hope the time is not far off when I shall be able to unite all the wise and educated men of all the countries and establish a uniform regime based on the principles of Qur'an which alone are true and which alone can lead men to happiness."

4. Thomas Carlyle in 'Heroes, Hero Worship, and the Heroic in History,' Lecture 2, Friday, 8th May 1840.

"A poor, hard-toiling, ill-provided man; careless of what vulgar men toil for. Not a bad man, I should say; Something better in him than hunger of any sort, -- or these wild Arab men, fighting and jostling three-and-twenty years at his hand, in close contact with him always, would not revered him so! They were wild men bursting ever and anon into quarrel, into all kinds of fierce sincerity; without right worth and manhood, no

man could have commanded them. They called him prophet you say? Why he stood there face to face with them; bare, not enshrined in any mystery; visibly clouting his own cloak, cobbling his own shoes; fighting, counselling, ordering in the midst of them: they must have seen what kind of man he was, let him be called what you like! No emperor with his tiaras was obeyed as this man in a cloak of his own clouting. During three-and-twenty years of rough actual trial. I find something of a veritable Hero necessary for that, of itself...

"These Arabs, the man Mahomet, and that one century, - is it not as if a spark had fallen, one spark, on a world of what proves explosive powder, blazes heaven-high from Delhi to Granada! I said, the Great man was always as lightning out of Heaven; the rest of men waited for him like fuel, and then they too would flame..."

5. Thomas Arnold in 'The Call to Islam.'

"We have never heard about any attempt to compel Non-Muslim parties to adopt Islam or about any organized persecution aiming at exterminating Christianity. If the Caliphs had chosen one of these plans, they would have wiped out Christianity as easily as what happened to Islam during the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella in Spain; by the same method which Louis XIV followed to make Protestantism a creed whose followers were to be sentenced to death; or with the same ease of keeping the Jews away from Britain for a period of three hundred and fifty years."

From "Islamic Civilization"

Dr. A. Zahoor

A Surprise for Umm-e-Khalid

It was a great day for Umm-e-Khalid when her father told her that he was going to take her to see the great Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Umm-e-Khalid was very excited and she put on her best clothes for the great occasion. But even greater thrills awaited the little girl.

When the Prophet ﷺ saw her, he thought she was a delightful child and he told her so.

You are a good girl he said and before long, Umm-e-Khalid was sitting close to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ talking to him and playing games with him.

Umm-e-Khalid's father was both pleased and angry. He was pleased because his little daughter had found favour in the Prophet's eyes. But he was angry because he knew that the Prophet ﷺ had many important things to do, and many important people to see. Umm-e-Khalid he thought was wasting the great man's time.

He said so but the Prophet ﷺ did not agree with him. The Prophet ﷺ told the father that he should let his daughter stay and go on playing with him. Playing with little children and talking to them was just as important to the Prophet as the other work he had to do.

Of course the time came at last when Umm-e-Khalid had to go home. But the Prophet ﷺ did not forget her, and one day soon afterwards he took an opportunity to give her a present.

Some friends came to the Prophet ﷺ with a gift of clothes for him. The Prophet looked at the clothes one by one, and came across a lovely shawl. It was beautifully made.

To whom shall I give this beautiful shawl? The Prophet ﷺ said to the people who were with him. No one said anything. They all thought how marvelous it woud be to have such a lovely gift, and all of them wanted it. But they did not think it was polite to say so.They thought it might sound as if they were greedy and as they knew, the Prophet ﷺ had always taught them to avoid greed. In any case the Prophet ﷺ already knew who would receive the shawl.

"Bring little Umm-e-Khalid to me," he said. "I shall give it to her."

Some of the Muslims in the crowd went to Umm-e-Khalid's house to fetch her. Of course the little girl became excited when she heard that the Prophet ﷺ had asked her to see him and she jumped and skipped with joy until she reached the place where the Prophet ﷺ was waiting.

Umm-e-Khalid nearly burst with joy when the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ gave her the shawl. There were some lovely flowers printed on it and the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ pointed to them.

"Look how beautiful these flowers are," he told Umm Khalid.

Little Umm-e-Khalid had never known such joy. She loved the shawl at first sight, and straight away wrapped it around her shoulders.

There is nothing more beautiful than this shawl in the whole world, she thought to herself. It is beautiful not only for its own sake but because the Prophet ﷺ has honoured me with this great gift.

No wonder little Umm-e-Khalid felt she was a very important little girl.

(Sahih Bukhari, Al-Jihad, Hadith no. 3071)

I Want to Buy a kitten

A farmer had some kittens he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the kittens and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy.

"Uncle," he said, "I want to buy one of your kittens."

"Well," said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, "these kittens come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer. "I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer.

And with that he let out a whistle, "Here, Dolly!" he called. Out from the kennel and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the kittenss made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the kennel.

Slowly another little ball appeared; this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a somewhat awkward manner the little kitty began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up....

"I want that one," the little boy said, pointing to the runt.

The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, "Son, you don't want that kitten. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other kittenss would."

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers.

In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe. Looking back up at the farmer, he said,

"You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and the kitty will need someone who understands."

The Rose Sent to Caliph Harun-ur-Rashid

There is a story that Charlemagne sent a most perfect rose as a gift to the Caliph Harun-ur-Rashid. He gave it to his gardener and told him to plant it with great care and as soon as the first rose came from it to bring it to him. The gardener carefully planted the rose in a beautiful part of the garden.

The next day a crow came and ate the rose. Trembling, the gardener told the news to Harun-ur-Rashid. He told the gardener not to worry for the punishment of the crow will be the same as that of the rose.

A few days later a snake came upon the crow and killed him. The gardener told the news to the Caliph who again told him that the fate of the snake will be the same as that of the crow.

The next day the gardener was working in the garden when he spotted the snake. He picked up an axe and killed the snake. The Caliph told him that his fate would be the same.

As it happened the gardener did something wrong and was thrown in jail. The day he was to be hanged, he requested to see Harun-ur-Rashid.

He reminded the Caliph of the rose, the crow and the snake and said that if the Caliph would show forgiveness toward him, then he would save himself from a similar fate.

The Fruits of Labour

There once lived a rich businessman who had a lazy and fun-loving son. He hated hard work, and enjoyed relaxing and playing all day long. But the businessman wanted his son to be hard-working and responsible. He wanted him to realise the value of labour and effort. He didn't want his son to be lazy.

One day he called his son and said, "Today, I want you to go out and earn something. If you don't, then you won't have your meals tonight."

The boy was callous and cunning, and not used to any kind of work. This demand by his father scared him and he went crying straight to his mother. Her heart melted at the sight of tears in her son's eyes. She grew restless. In a bid to help him she gave him a gold coin.

In the evening when the father asked his son what he had earned, the son promptly presented him with the gold coin, thinking that the father would think that the boy had earned the money from doing some work. But the father asked the boy to throw the gold coin into a well. So the son did as he was told.

The father was a man of wisdom and experience and guessed that the coin was given to him by the boy's mother.

The next day, he sent his wife to her parent's town and asked his son to go and earn something with the threat of being denied the night meals if he failed. This time he went crying to his sister who sympathised with him and gave him a rupee out of her own savings.

When his father asked him what he had earned, the boy showed the money that his sister had given him. The father again asked him to throw it in a well. The son did it quite readily.

Again the father's wisdom told him that the coin was not earned by his son. He then sent his daughter to her in-laws' house. He again asked his son to go out and earn with the threat that he shall not have anything for dinner that night.

But this time since there was no one to help him out the son was forced to go to the market in search of work. One of the shopkeepers there told him that he would pay him two rupees if he carried his trunk to his house. The rich man's son could not refuse and was drenched in sweat by the time he finished the job. His feet were trembling and his neck and back were aching. There were even rashes on his back.

As he returned home and produced the two rupee note before his father and was asked to throw it into the well, the horrified son almost cried out. He could not imagine throwing away his hard-earned money like this. Sobbing, he said, "Baba! My entire body is aching. My back has rashes and you are asking me to throw this money into the well?"

At this the old man smiled. He told him that a person feels the pain only when the fruits of hard labour are wasted. On earlier two occasions he was helped by his mother and sister and therefore had no pain in throwing the coins into the well.

The son had by then realised the value of hard work. He vowed never to be lazy and would look after his father's wealth. The father handed the keys of his shop over to the son and promised to guide and help him, the rest of his life.

The Lesson from the Son

One day father of a wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Oh Yes!" said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four."

"We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end."

"We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night."

"Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon."

"We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight."

"We have servants who serve us, but they serve others."

"We buy our food, but they grow theirs."

"We have walls around our property to protect us. They have friends to protect them."

With this the boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks dad for showing me how ungrateful we truly are."

Dear kids! I hope you all are also thankful for all the blessings we get everyday.

The Little Ants

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions رضي الله تعالى عنهم once paused during a journey, and made a camp where they could rest. The Prophet went round the camp, talking to the men, and making sure that everything was all right.

Then, not far away, he saw a fire. Someone had lit the fire to keep himself warm. The Prophet ﷺ walked towards the man who had lit the fire, to talk to him.

Suddenly, he saw that not far away, there was an anthill. The ants could be seen running about near the hill, working very hard, as ants do. Some of the ants were further away from the anthill than others, and the Prophet ﷺ saw that they were getting very close to the fire the man had lit. If they came much closer, the ants might be burned up or harmed in some way.

The Prophet ﷺ was distubed to see this. The ants were in danger. That meant that God's living creatures were in danger.

"Who has started fire here?" he asked.

The man who had kindled the fire looked up.

"I kindled the fire, O Messenger of Allah تبارك وتعالى!" he replied.

"It is cold and I needed to make myself warm."

"Quick!" the Prophet ﷺ told him. "Put out the fire! Put out the fire!"

The man obeyed at once. He took a blanket and beat the fire until its flames died away. Then, the man looked round and saw that there were ants in the surrounding area where the fire had been. He realised then that the Prophet ﷺ had been worried about the ants. He did not want the fire to hurt them and in his great mercy had ordered the fire to be put out.

Even afterwards, the man always remembered to look round carefully before he lit a fire.

"There might be ants or other animals nearby," he said to himself. "And Allah تبارك وتعالى forbids that any man should hurt them!"

(Sunan Abi Dawood, Al-jihad, Hadith no. 2675)

The Most Important Body Part

My mother used to ask me which was the most important part of the body. Through the years I would take a guess at what I thought was the correct answer.

When I was younger, I thought sound was very important to us as humans, so I said, "My ears, Mummy."

She said, "No. Many people are deaf. But you keep thinking about it and I will ask you again soon."

Several years passed before she asked me again. Since making my first attempt, I had contemplated the correct answer. So this time I told her, "Mummy, sight is very important to everybody, so it must be our eyes."

She looked at me and told me, "You are learning fast, but the answer is not correct because there are many people who are blind."

Stumped again, I continued my quest for knowledge and over the years, mother asked me a couple more times and always her answer was, "No. But you are getting smarter every year, my child."

Then last year, my grandpa died. Everybody was hurt. Everybody was crying. Even my father cried. I remember that especially because it was only the second time I saw him cry.

My mum looked at me when it was our turn to say our final good-bye to Grandpa. She asked me, "Do you know the most important body part yet, my dear?"

I was shocked when she asked me this now. I always thought this was a game between her and me. She saw the confusion on my face and told me, "This question is very important. It shows that you have really lived in your life. For every body part you gave me in the past, I have told you that you were wrong and I have given you an example why. But today is the day you need to learn this important lesson."

She looked down at me as only a mother can. I saw her eyes well up with tears. She said, "My dear, the most important body part is your shoulder."

I asked, "Is it because it holds up my head?" She replied, "No, it is because it can hold the head of a friend or a loved one when they cry. Everybody needs a shoulder to cry on sometime in life, my dear. I only hope that you have enough love and friends that you will always have a shoulder to cry on when you need it."

Then and there I knew the most important body part is not a selfish one. It is sympathetic to the pain of others.

The Hijrah to Madinah

Muhammad ﷺ awoke with a startle. What was that noise? He pulled his cloak tightly round him for warmth, sat absolutely still, and listened.

Here in Makkah he knew he had many enemies. When Muhammad ﷺ began preaching about Allah تبارك وتعالى, and telling people to get rid of the idols they worshipped, many people became very angry.

They had worshipped their idols for a long time, and besides that, the idols in the Ka'bah brought trade and money to Makkah. People would not change their ways just because Muhammad ﷺ said they should. Who did he think he was anyway?

A quick prayer came from Muhammad ﷺ's lips, and then he awoke his young follower, Ali رضي الله تعالى عنه, who was sleeping close by.

Everyone knew there were people plotting to kill Muhammad ﷺ, but no one knew when. Muhammad ﷺ and his friends made plans to leave Makkah for Madinah.

The people there were anxious to have Muhammad ﷺ as their leader, unlike the people of Makkah. Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr رضي الله تعالى عنه, his great friend and supporter, were to escape in the dead of the night. Ali رضي الله تعالى عنه would take Muhammad's ﷺ cloak and pretend to be asleep in the Prophet's ﷺ bed.

That would give them more time to get away. It was important to make sure that Muhammad ﷺ reached Madinah alive.

Ali رضي الله تعالى عنه lie down on Muhammad ﷺ's mat, the sweat glistening on his forehead. His eyes were wide open, and he was listening for the slightest sound.

The Prophet ﷺ slipped away quietly, while Ali رضي الله تعالى عنه heard voices saying, "Muhammad is there, asleep. At dawn, when he steps out of the door, we will silence him forever."

By dawn the escape party was long gone. The group of assassins crept quietly around the house where Ali رضي الله تعالى عنه was sleeping.

They flung open the door, swords flashing .....but stopped, astonished to find that only Ali was there. He was too young to be of any importance. The assassins howled with disappointment, and were so surprised that they allowed Ali to push past them, and walk out of the house towards the Ka'bah.

Meanwhile Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr رضي الله تعالى عنه had avoided the road from Makkah to Madinah, where they would have been seen, and caught for certain. They were on foot, climbing the rocky slopes to the caves near Makkah. They were covered in dust, exhausted and thirsty.

Abu Bakr رضي الله تعالى عنه was, by turns, angry and afraid. He could not believe a Messenger of God would have to hide like this. He called to Allah تبارك وتعالى for help. The Prophet ﷺ reassured him.

"Allah تبارك وتعالى will hear you," he said.

By nightfall they reached the caves, but they could hear the clattering of hooves of their enemies' horses close behind. What could they do? Abu Bakr رضي الله تعالى عنه began to despair.

"What shall we do," he said, "There are only two of us!"

Muhammad ﷺ pulled him inside the nearest cave.

"You are mistaken," he said. "There are three of us."

Footsteps could be heard at the mouth of the cave. Abu Bakr رضي الله تعالى عنه held his breath. Then a voice was heard.

"No, they can't be in here. It's covered with spider's webs and nests and branches. No one has been here since Muhammad ﷺ was born."

There was the sound of people moving away, horses' hooves fading in the distance. Abu Bakr رضي الله تعالى عنه let out a long sigh. He praised Allah تبارك وتعالى, but was too terrified to move. And what did they mean...spiders' webs and nests and branches?

He opened his eyes. The cave did not look the same. Over the entrance there was indeed a beautiful, silver spider's web, and above it, a low branch with a nest where a dove sat, cooing gently.

"How did that happen?" asked Abu Bakr رضي الله تعالى عنه, but the Prophet ﷺ simply turned to his friend رضي الله تعالى عنه and smiled. When the two were certain that the enemy had gone, they left the cave that had protected them, and continued their journey safely to Madinah.

(Al-Mawahibul Laduniya, Hijrah to Madinah vol.1 page:192)

Hasan and Hussain Help an Old Man

When the grandsons of the Blessed Prophet, Hasan and Hussain رضي الله تعالى عنهم were very young, an old bedouin once came to Madinah.

When the time of salah (prayer) came, he began to make wudhu, but he was making his wudhu incorrectly.

Hasan and Hussain saw the old man making his wudhu wrong, and wished to correct him, but were not sure how. He was an old man, and being young children, they didn't want to point out the old man's mistakes. They might hurt his feelings. It wasn't good manners to point out the mistakes of their elders. What could they do?

Both the brothers thought and thought over the problem, and at last hit upon an idea. Together they arranged a plan to teach the man how to make wudhu correctly, without insulting him, advising him in a manner befitting his age.

They went over to the old man, and asked him if he could help them. "My brother and I disagree over who amongst us performs Wudhu the best. Would you mind watching us make wudhu, and be the judge to see which one of us indeed performs Wudhu more correctly? Could you please correct us wherever we are wrong?"

The man watched carefully as the two grandsons of the Blessed Prophet ﷺ performed Wudhu in an explicit manner. Soon he knew the correct way of making wudhu, realising his mistakes.

After Hasan and Hussain رضي الله تعالى عنهم had completed their wudhu, the old man thanked them and said, "By Allah تبارك وتعالى, I did not know how to perform wudhu before this. You both have taught me how to do it correctly."

(Manaqib Imam A'zam lilkurdi vol.1 page 39)

The Prophet and His Grandchildren

One day, there was a great gathering in the Prophet's ﷺ Masjid where the Prophet ﷺ was telling the people about Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ and the wonderful ways of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ.

It was very quiet inside the Masjid that people hardly moved as the Prophet ﷺ spoke to them. Then suddenly without warning, he stopped speaking and began to walk towards the door.

The people were surprised and puzzled. Where could the Prophet ﷺ be going suddenly? It seemed strange, but it did not remain a mystery for long.

When people in the crowd turned round and followed the Prophet ﷺ with their eyes, they saw why he had acted as he did.

Two children smartly dressed in red shirts were walking towards the Masjid and as the Prophet ﷺ had been speaking, he had seen them through the door. The Prophet loved all children of course, but these were two very, very special children as far as he was concerned.

They were his grandsons, Hasan رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَىٰ عَنْهُ and Hussain رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَىٰ عَنْهُ the sons of the beloved daughter of the Prophet ﷺ, Fatimah رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَىٰ عَنْهَا and her husband Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَىٰ عَنْهُ, the fourth Caliph رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَىٰ عَنْهُ.

Naturally, the Prophet loved the two boys very much and they in turn loved him. When Hasan رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَىٰ عَنْهُ and Hussain رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَىٰ عَنْهُ saw their beloved grandfather; they grinned and started to run towards him with their arms stretched out to embrace him.

The Prophet was delighted to see them and brought them back into the Masjid where he told them to sit down beside him. Then the Prophet ﷺ resumed talking and the crowd in the Masjid fell silent again as they listened to the words of Allah تبارك وتعالى's great Messenger ﷺ.

Naturally, the Prophet ﷺ was a frequent visitor at the house of his daughter Fatimah رضي الله تعالى عنها. He loved to be with Hasan رضي الله تعالى عنه and Hussain رضي الله تعالى عنه but he became very distressed when he saw that either of the boys was unhappy or crying. When this happened, the Prophet ﷺ would call his daughter and tell her to leave whatever she would have been doing to attend to the children.

This was because the Prophet ﷺ thought that nothing could be so important that it should come before a child who needed comfort.

The Disobedient Man (Part 1)

This is the story of Ibrahim Ibn Adham رَحِمَهُ اللهُ تَعَالَى giving advice against disobedience.

A man came to Ibrahim Ibn Adham رَحِمَهُ اللهُ تَعَالَى and said, "Abu Ishaq, I am unable to control myself. Please give me something to help me with

"If you accept five conditions," said Ibrahim, "and are able to put them into practice, your disobedience will not cause you any problem."

"Just tell me what they are, Abu Ishaq!" the disobedient man said.

"The first is that when you want to disobey Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى, you do not eat anything He provides."

"Then how will I get anything to eat? Everything on the earth is from Him!" said the disobedient man.

"So is it right to eat what Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى provides you with and then disobey Him at the same time?" replied Ibrahim.

"No, it is not," said the disobedient man. "What is the second condition?"

"When you want to disobey him, move off His land."

"That is even more difficult!" exclaimed the man. "In that case where will I live?"

"Is it right to eat His provision and live on His land and then to disobey Him?" asked Ibrahim.

"No, it is not," replied the man. "What is the third condition?"

"When you want to disobey Allah تبارك وتعالى, in spite of eating His provision and living on His land, find a place where He will not see you and disobey Him there."

"What do you mean, Ibrahim? He knows everything that happens even in the most hidden of the places!" said the disobedient man.

"So is it right to disobey Him when you eat His provision and live on His land, when you know that He can see everything you do?" questioned Ibrahim.

"It certainly is not!" the man replied.

The Disobedient Man (Part 2)

"Tell me the fourth condition," The man asked.

"That when the Angel of Death arrives to take your soul, you say to him, 'Give me a reprieve (give me more time to live), so that I can repent and act righteously for Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى.'"

"But he won't listen to me!"

"Then if you cannot ward off death long enough to give yourself time to repent, and you know that when it comes, there will be no reprieve, how can you hope to be saved?" replied Ibrahim.

"What is the fifth?" asked the man.

"That when the angels of the Fire come to you to take you to the Fire, do not go with them," said Ibrahim.

"But they will take me whether I like it or not!" exclaimed the man.

"So how can you hope to be saved?"

"Enough, enough, Ibrahim! I ask Allah's تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى forgiveness and I turn to Him!"

The man's repentance was sincere, and from that time on, he was diligent in his worship and became a good Muslim, avoiding acts of disobedience until the day he died.

The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a rod which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for its end. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and so miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full return of your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it a little. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But if we allow, Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ uses our flaws to grace the table (the world)

The Prophet ﷺ and the Bedouin Father

As you know, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ always enjoyed the company of children. One day, he was sitting with a crowd of them, talking to them. Every now and then, he patted some of them on the head and kissed them.

The children were delighted at the love, which the Prophet ﷺ bestowed on them. The youngest children were especially pleased because they knew that whenever the Prophet ﷺ got the season's new fruit, he usually gave it to the youngest.

Suddenly, a Bedouin appeared close by. He stood watching the Prophet ﷺ surrounded by happy, laughing children. It was the sort of scene that makes most people smile and feel happy. But the Bedouin was not smiling. He was not at all happy, and when he spoke, the Prophet ﷺ discovered why.

"I have ten children," the Bedouin said, "but I have never kissed any of them."

This was a terrible thing. The Prophet ﷺ felt great sorrow for the unfortunate Bedouin. To have ten children, ten gifts from Allah تبارك وتعالى and not love them was very sad indeed. Loving and caring for dear ones is a blessing from Allah تبارك وتعالى and the Bedouin did not know that blessing.

The Prophet ﷺ wanted to help the man but he knew there was a great obstacle in the way.

"How can I help you," the Prophet ﷺ said, "if Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ has taken away all the love and kindness from your heart?"

At this the Bedouin felt even sadder for to receive help and advice from the Prophet ﷺ was a wonderful thing that he could not receive. But on reflection he also realized that he could become kind and loving. Then he would deserve getting help from the Prophet and more so from Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ.

(Sahih Bukhari, Kitabul Adab, Hadith no. 5997)

The Jumping Frogs

A group of frogs were travelling through the woods and two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead.

The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump out of the pit with all their strength. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that they were as good as dead.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell down and died.

The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out.

This frog was deaf and unable to hear the plea of others. He thought they were encouraging him all the time.

A Bag of Nails

There was a little boy with a bad temper.

His father gave him a bag of nails and asked him to hammer a nail in the back fence every time he lost his temper. The first day the boy drove 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down.

He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence.

The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. It does not matter how many times you apologize, the wound does not heal.

Just Five More Minutes

While at the park one day, a woman sat down next to a lady on a bench near a playground. "That's my son over there," she said, pointing to a little boy in a red sweater who was playing on the slide.

"He's a fine looking boy," the lady said. "That's my son on the swing in the blue sweater." Then, looking at her watch, she called her son, "Are you ready to leave Sameer?"

Sameer pleaded, "Just five more minutes, Mummy. Please? Just five more minutes." The lady nodded and Sameer continued to swing to his heart's content.

Minutes passed and the mother stood and called again to her son. "Time to go now?" Again Sameer pleaded, "Five more minutes, Mum. Just five more minutes." The lady smiled and said, "Okay"

"My! You certainly are a patient mother," the woman responded.

The lady smiled and then said, "My older son Haitham was killed in a road accident last year while he was riding his bike. I never spent, as much time with him as I should have and now I would give anything for just five more minutes with him. I've vowed not to make the same mistake with Sameer. He thinks he has five more minutes to swing. The truth is I get five more minutes to watch him play."

The Man and the Moon

It was the time when Umar Ibn-e-Khattab رضي الله تعالى عنه was the Caliph. The month of fasting had come around. A crowd of people ran to a hilltop to draw a good omen from the sight of the crescent moon.

'See, Umar!' cried one. 'The new moon!'

Umar did not see any moon in the sky.

'This moon,' he remarked to the man, 'has risen from your imagination. Otherwise, how is it that I do not see the pure crescent, seeing that I am a better scanner of the skies than you? Wet your hand,' he went on,' and rub it on your eyebrows, then take another look at the new moon.'

The man wetted his eyebrows, and no more saw the moon.

'Yes,' commented Umar رضي الله تعالى عنه. 'The hair of your eyebrow became a bow and shot at you an arrow of surmise.'

One hair through becoming crooked had waylaid him completely, so that he falsely claimed boastfully to have seen the moon.

Life Is Like a Baking Cake

A little boy was telling his Grandma how "everything" had been going wrong. School problems, family problems, health problems, problems with friends, etc.

Meanwhile, Grandma was baking a cake. She asked her grandson if he would like to eat the cake, which, of course, he did.

"Here, have some cooking oil."

"Yuck" said the boy.

"How about a couple of raw eggs?"

"Gross, Grandma!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?"

"Grandma, those are all yucky!"

To which Grandma replied, "Yes, all those things seem unacceptable when seen in isolation. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى works the same way. Many times we wonder why he would let us go through such bad and difficult times.

But Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى knows that when He puts these things all according to His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all contribute to something wonderful!"

Pearl Necklace (Part 1)

Qazi Abu Bakr Muhammad bin Abdul Baqi Ansari is an illustrious personality of Islamic History. He was the most pious person of his time. Even after the lapse of nine centuries, his exemplary life is a source of guidance to Muslims. His biographers tell a number of tales of his honesty and reliability but the one that affected his whole life is full of strange and unique events. He has narrated this story in his own words and it adorns the pages of history books.

"In the middle of the 5th century Hijri, I was a student of the Holy Quran and Hadith in Makkah. During that period, I once became jobless and my means of income came to an end. I managed, somehow, to subsist for a few days but soon it became hard to obtain even two square meals. My studies were discontinued and I had to sell a few of my books to support myself. I was at the edge of starvation but my feelings of self-respect did not allow me to borrow or beg from anybody.

One day, I was hungry, as usual. I went to the Holy Ka'bah to pray to Almighty Allah تبارك وتعالى to save me from my sad plight. On my way back, I saw a velvet cloth pouch lying near the road edge. I picked it up. It was nicely sewn and neatly tied with a silk cord. I looked around to find its owner but the road was deserted and nobody was in sight. I carried the pouch to my house.

I was curious to know the contents of the small bag. As I untied the cord, a very precious necklace of pearls slipped into my hand. The

luster of the spotless pearls almost lit my room. The pearls of different sizes were nicely put together in a string of crimson coloured silk. It was a radiant beauty and I was thrilled to hold the valuable ornament. For a moment, I altogether forgot the hungry and pitiable state in which I was. My thoughts went to the unfortunate owner who had lost the precious jewellery. He must be unhappy and worried due to his great loss. The course of action which I instantly decided on, was to look for the owner and give him back his necklace to relieve him of this mental suffering. It never came to my mind to keep it wrongfully in my possession. So I set out to search for him. Leaving the bag behind, I went straight to the place were it was found.

A group of excited men were standing there and were busy in anxious conversation. I went close to them. Their topic of discussion was the missing pouch of pearls. An old man whose nobility and magnanimity was evident from his imposing personality, was standing amidst them. He was explaining the loss of his pearls to the attentive audience and was announcing a reward of five hundred gold coins to the person who could help him in recovering the lost necklace.

I listened to his account of the loss very carefully. When I was sure of his ownership, I held his hand gently and requested him to come along with me. He looked at me very hopefully and without asking any questions, he followed me. On the way back to my house, I was delightfully thinking that a handsome amount of five hundred dinars would be mine after a short while. The very thought of getting a reward of that much money was very pleasing. I was wondering whether my miseries

would be over. I would no longer be a hungry or poor person. With such happy ideas in my mind, I entered my house and also invited the old man to come in.

When we sat down, I asked my perplexed guest about some marks of identification of his lost bag, so that his ownership could be established beyond doubt. He readily explained the shape and colour of the pouch. He told me about its contents and gave an exact count of the pearls. He even described the tying cord. It convincingly proved that he was the rightful owner of the bag and the necklace of pearls. I silently rose and brought out the necklace pouch. As he saw it, his gloomy expression at once changed. His shining eyes beamed with joy and he looked at me with sincere gratefulness. His pleasant glance of thanks impressed me, and my own mode of thinking suddenly changed.

A little earlier, I was enjoying the idea of getting a good reward but now my mind was reasoning as to what I had actually done to deserve it. It was by sheer chance that the bag had come into my possession. I had exerted no efforts to obtain it. Therefore, why did I expect to get a reward for returning it to its rightful owner? But I was actually in dire need of money. My poverty and the grim realities of life were looking me in the face. Why shouldn't I accept the reward? It was absolutely legitimate and surely there was no harm in taking it. A painful conflict of indecision was going on within me and I was in an uneasy state of double mindedness.

The noble old man was looking at the necklace again and again as to assure himself of its recovery. He then looked at me and said, "O dear me, you are a virtuous person and I thank you from the core of my heart.

I am unable to express fully my feelings of gratitude for your praiseworthy act. Nevertheless, I offer you a purse of five hundred dinars as a humble present and request you to kindly accept it."

He then placed in front of me a purse full of gold coins. A conflicting struggle of ideas was still going on in my mind. The sight of money which was within my easy reach was very tempting but I checked myself and said, "Sir, I thank you for offering me a substantial amount as a reward but it is impossible for me to accept it."

"Why not?" asked my noble guest, "You justly deserve the reward because I am giving it entirely of my own free will. I gladly give it to you as a humble token of my gratitude. Please do not dishearten me by refusing it."

I replied, "Sir, I cannot even think of being rude to decline your kind offer, but it is certainly improper for me to take it without doing anything to earn it. The necklace is yours and I happened to find it only by chance. Its restoration to you does not entitle me to take anything in return. Please do not insist on me to accept what is not morally my due."

He was rather surprised, by my firm refusal. Norm

Ally people yearn for money but I was adamantly declining it. He said, "My son! It is a virtue to be an honest person but the money is which is being offered to you is not disallowed by our faith. It is not prohibited to offer or accept such presents. Therefore, I request you to reconsider your unrealistic stand and keep that purse for the sake of my pleasure if not for anything else."

I said, "Sir, I do not at all intend to displease you, but the pleasure of Almighty Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالٰى is more important to be reckoned with than your or my pleasure. If there is any good in my action, I will prefer to leave the matter to His Grace for compensation, which I do not want to risk for all the riches of this world. Kindly do not insist because I am determined not to accept any undue reward." My guest collected his pouch and purse and stood much dejectedly to leave. He patted me on the back and left without a word.

After a week or so, I got back my previous job. My days of deprivation and hunger were over. I rejoined my classes and forgot all about the incident. I got busy with my daily schedule. I exerted all of my energy to acquire knowledge of the Holy Qur'an and Hadith. My main subject of interest was Islamic Jurisprudence. I completed my studies with a distinction.

Pearl Necklace (Part 2)

Opon the recommendation of my tutor, I was offered an appointment as Qazi of Qurtaba, (Cordova) the capital city of Haspaniyah (presently known as Spain). I readily accepted the post and started to prepare myself very happily for the long journey. I took leave of my colleagues and went to the port of Jeddah to embark on the ship for my destination. I boarded a merchant ship to carry me to the land of my future hopes.

For the first few days, the voyage was smooth and very enjoyable. Then suddenly a violent storm of severe intensity overtook us and the ship was engulfed by stormy waves. The mountain high waves tossed the ship around like a tiny toy. The masts were broken and the sails torn. A mighty wave crushed the ship and wrecked it completely. A few screams were heard and it was all over. I saw some floating boards and a few victims of the crash swimming around trying to save their lives. They were the only survivors of the hapless ship who were drifting over the ocean surface. When I recovered from the shock, I found myself clinging to a plank and moving with it at the mercy of the waves.

After drifting for two days, in a semi-conscious state, the waves tossed me upon the shore. I thanked Almighty Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ for saving me from the jaws of death. I was so weak that I couldn't move. I helplessly lay there exposed to the scorching heat of the burning rays of

the sun. I crawled to the dim shadows of a thorny bush. I lost track of time and was in a state between dizziness and heavy slumber.

After some time, I slightly opened my eyes and saw a few strange faces staring at me. They poured a few drops of water into my mouth and I came out of my oblivion but was still unable to speak. They made up a stretcher and carried me to a nearby town. When we approached it, the first man-made thing which caught my eye was a towering minaret of a Masjid. I thanked Allah تبارك وتعالى for being among my own brethren of faith.

They took me to a house belonging to one of them and laid me on a comfortable bed. With proper care, feeding, and treatment, I soon regained my lost energy. I told my kind host all about myself and the mishap of the ship wreck. My host, whose name was Faleh Hasan, informed me that I was in Hodeida, a coastal town of Yemen. The tract where I was luckily found was a desolate region and was a less treaded part of the coast. Faleh Hasan and his friends noticed a few vultures circling over the area, so they went to investigate and found me there in an unconscious state. He introduced me to his friends and I expressed my heartfelt thanks for saving my life. Due to their loving concern, I was soon back to normal, both mentally and physically.

I began to attend Masjid to offer my regular prayers and there I came to know many persons of nobility and of high-ranking positions. They all knew my unhappy episode through my host and treated me with understanding and respect. One of them was the aged and pious Sheikh

Ahmad bin Suhail who usually led the prayers. He always greeted me with fatherly affection which touched me to the heart.

One day, he was a little late to arrive at the Masjid, so the people requested me to lead the prayers. My hesitation and excuses proved to be useless before their sincere appeals. That day I performed the duties of Imam. I did my best to recite clearly the Verses of the Holy Qur'an during the prayer and afterwards delivered a brief sermon on Islamic Law. Everyone seemed to be highly impressed. Sheikh Ahmad bin Suhail came forward and congratulated me on my excellent performance. I thanked him for his appreciation and encouragement. I came back to the house of my host filled with delight and self-confidence.

But later, I had sometimes thought that I had overstayed my welcome. So after the evening prayers, I stated my intention of leaving, but my host disagreed with me. He wanted me to stay for a few more days to recoup my health fully. At night, when I was going to bed, Sheikh Ahmad bin Suhail came with a few respectable people of the town. The friends of Faleh Hasan, who were my saviours, were also with them. When the preliminary formalities of greeting each other were over and all were comfortably seated, Sheikh Ahmad turned his eyes towards me and said, "Dear Abu Bakr, I have been honoured by these gentlemen to speak to you, on behalf of them, about their commendable wish. I expect you will please assent to it."

I was perplexed by that kind of address. So I said nervously, "Sir, you are very helpful and kind to me. I cannot disregard any of your

commands or wishes. You can order me to do anything and it will be an honour for me to obey it."

He said, "Dear son, we all earnestly desire you to stay here with us forever. The regular Imam of our Masjid had died last year. We still mourn his death and perhaps will do so forever. His respect is deeply rooted in our hearts. He had enlightened our lives with the torch of knowledge. We wish you to take his place and consent to be our Imam. We may not be able to offer you a better paid position than that of the Qazi in Qurtaba, but we will surely give you our love, affection, and respect."

Pearl Necklace (Part 3)

"But Sir," I protested, "I am a fresh, inexperienced student and feel small to carry out the sacred duties of the high office of Imam." The Sheikh said, "My son, do not underestimate yourself. We all have heard your recitation and sermon, and are fully convinced of your ability to fulfil those responsibilities."

Before I could think of any evasive answer, my host, Faleh Hasan, and his friends vehemently backed up the proposal. I was left with no other alternative but to nod in the affirmative. Everybody was pleased with my decision, especially Sheikh Ahmad who thanked me and kissed my forehead. They all rose to leave and thanking me individually, and departed very happy.

They left me thinking how the secret hands of fate change the course of destiny in a secret manner. Circumstances secretly take such a turn that they altogether change the plans made up by man. I had cherished the hope of being a Qazi of Qurtaba and had taken steps to attain that goal, but preordained events made me an Imam of the Masjid in Hodeida.

So a new phase in my life began. I took charge of the imposed position and shifted to the assigned house of the Imam. I restarted the primary school that had closed due to the sad demise of the former Imam. I also commenced evening classes to impart lessons to explain the meaning of the Holy Qur'an.

I completely adjusted myself to the new environment and people generally accepted me as their religious leader. I was very content and never for a moment regretted my decision to settle there. All the people, young and old alike, were happy and respected me. The feelings of any estrangement all faded away and I became as if I was one of them for ages.

One day, Sheikh Ahmad came to me and after enquiring about my welfare, said, "Dear Abu Bakr, your services to our townsmen are praiseworthy and beyond our expectations. I am glad that you had accepted our offer of staying with us. Now I have come to you to ask for one more favour."

I said, "Sir, I am at your service. Please tell me and I will comply with your order."

He said, "Dear son, a man is not perfect without his partner of life. I want you to marry and take full advantage of life. Marriage is also a sacred Sunnah of our Holy Prophet ﷺ. The sweet marital responsibilities are a real blessing which have been conferred onto man."

I replied, "Sir, you have always advised me in my best interest. I take you as a father to me and in this matter also, I will follow your advice."

The Sheikh said, "Your predecessor, the late Imam of this Masjid was a very close friend of mine. He had a daughter, and when he was sure of his end, he entrusted her to my protection and care. Since then she has been under my guardianship. She is a lovely and adorable girl of good manners. Allah تبارك وتعالى has endowed her with physical and mental

beauty. She is virtuous and is a suitable match for you. I wish to give her in marriage to you and I feel sure that it will be a marriage of true minds."

I had no objection to the proposal whatsoever. A few days later, the bonds of marriage united us. After the festive ceremonies were over, Sheikh Ahmad escorted her to my house that was in fact her old abode where she had lived with her late father. I looked at her and my gaze was concentrated steadily on her. I forgot to even say welcome to her. I was not only looking at her beautiful and charming face, and at her downcast eyes; but my glance was riveted upon her pretty neck, which was ornamented by precious pearls. I at once recognized that necklace. It was the same necklace that I once found on a deserted road of Makkah. I looked at her in silent and open-mouthed wonder.

Sheikh Ahmad noticed my confused condition and thought that her beauty and the luster of the pearls had enchanted me. He politely said, "Dear Abu Bakr, that necklace and its wearer, both are yours now and you can take all your time to behold them. It may, perhaps, interest you to know that the necklace has a strange story of its own. Five years ago, my friend went to Makkah for pilgrimage and took that necklace with him to get it re-polished. There, he lost it. But due to the goodness of an honest young man, he recovered it intact, That commendable young man refused to sell his honesty and declined the pressing offer of a handsome reward. He left a lasting impression upon my friend who always remembered and talked about him. He once confided to me that he had a mind to go to Makkah again and ask that virtuous young man to accept

the hand of his daughter, but time did not allow him to do so. Anyhow, it was destined differently. His daughter was to become your wife instead of his. The decreed decisions of fate are strange and beyond the understanding of man."

An emotional storm erupted within me. The strange happenings of the fateful events which were unfolded by the hidden hands of destiny agitated me and drops of tears rolled down my cheeks; I looked towards Sheikh Ahmad through misty eyes and said, "Dear Sir, you are very right to say that insight into the unknown mysteries of fate is not possible. It would perhaps be a pleasant surprise to know that I am the same person who found the necklace and restored it to your friend. He, in return, offered me an amount of five hundred dinars. Although I was a pauper and was suffering from the agonies of hunger in those days, my conscience did not allow me to accept anything that was not my due. I pinned all my hopes and expectations for any reward with Almighty Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ. And here I am with His gracious and greatest reward of all."

Sheikh Ahmad was amazed and without saying a word, he held my hand and shook it with passion. My newly wedded wife lifted her eyes and looked me full in the face. Her eyes were filled with enthusiastic love that any husband ever could desire for. Almighty Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ had bestowed upon me His favours by giving me a considerate and loving wife and nothing in life surpasses that bliss."

Sayings of Confucius (Part 1)

(Dear children, it is often said by some people that Confucius is in fact the name of Hadhrat Luqman عليه السلام, a man of wisdom whom the Quran also quotes. However, this has never been authenticated. What is known is the fact that Confucius was a Chinese man who had great wisdom.

- A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.
- A superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.
- Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without.
- By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is ea siest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.
- Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.
- Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.
- Faced with what is right, to leave it undone shows a lack of courage.
- He, who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.
- He who speaks without modesty will find it difficult to make his words good.

- I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.
- It does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop.
- It is easy to hate and it is difficult to love. This is how the whole scheme of things works. All good things are difficult to achieve; and bad things are very easy to get.
- It is more shameful to distrust our friends than to be deceived by them.
- Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.
- Never contract friendship with a man who is not better than you.
- No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.
- Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change.
- Our greatest glory is not, in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.
- Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance.
- Silence is a true friend who never betrays.

Sayings of Confucius (Part 2)

- The firm, the enduring, the simple, and the modest are near to virtue.
- The object of the superior man is truth.
- The superior man thinks always of virtue; the common man thinks of comfort.
- To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short.
- What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.
- When anger rises, think of the consequences.
- When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.
- When we see persons of worth, we should think of equalling them; when we see persons of a contrary character, we should turn inwards and examine ourselves.
- When you are labouring for others let it be with the same zeal as if it were for yourself.
- When you know a thing, to hold that you know it, and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it - this is knowledge.
- Wherever you go, go with all your heart.

- You cannot open a book without learning something.
- Speak the truth, do not yield to anger; give, if you are asked for little; by these three steps you will go near God.
- Study the past, if you would divine the future.
- The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.
- They must often change, who would be constant in happiness or wisdom.
- If I am walking with two other men, each of them will serve as my teacher. I will pick out the good points of the one and imitate them, and the bad points of the other and correct them in myself.
- If we don't know life, how can we know death?
- Look at the means that a man employs, consider his motives, and observe his pleasures. A man simply cannot conceal himself!
- The cautious seldom err.
- Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.

The Bamboo and the Fern

One day, I decided to quit. I wanted to quit my job, my relationships, my spirituality; I even wanted to quit my life. I went to have one last talk with a wise gardener. "Gardener," I said, "Can you give me one good reason not to quit?" His answer surprised me. "Look around," he said, "do you see the fern and the bamboo?" "Yes," I replied.

"When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them. The fern quickly grew from the earth. Its brilliant green covered the floor. Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo."

"In the second year the fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo."

"In the third year there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I wouldn't quit."

"In the fourth year, again, there was nothing from the bamboo seed. Still, I didn't quit."

"Then in the fifth year a tiny sprout emerged from the earth. Compared to the fern it was seemingly small and insignificant. But just 6 months later the bamboo rose to over 100 feet tall. It had spent the five years growing roots. Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive. I realised that Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ would not pose a situation to any of His creations they could not handle."

He said to me. "Did you know, my child, that all this time you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots? I would not quit on the bamboo. You should never quit on yourself! Don't compare yourself to others.

The bamboo had a different purpose than the fern. Yet they both make the forest beautiful. Your time will come."

Remember... Allah تبارك وتعالى will never leave you, nor forsake you. He will never give up on you. He will never, ever quit on you. "Everyone has days when they want to 'quit'. When there are struggles... .... obstacles in life, remember we're just growing roots!!

Allah تبارك وتعالى has a purpose for each one of us and we need to talk to Him and let Him help us realize that purpose. Always remember, He'll never leave us, He'll never forsake us, and He'll never quit on us.

Nasruddin Jokes (Part 1)

Nasruddin and the Will of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ

"May the Will of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ be done," a pious man was saying about something or the other.

"It always is, in any case," said Mullah Nasruddin.

"How can you prove that, Mullah?" asked the man.

"Quite simply. If it wasn't always being done, then surely at some time or another my will would be done, wouldn't it?"

Why we are here

Walking one evening along a deserted road, Nasruddin saw a troop of horsemen rapidly approaching. His imagination started to work; he saw himself captured or robbed or killed and frightened by this thought, he bolted, climbed a wall into a graveyard, and lay down in an open grave to hide.

Puzzled at his bizzare behaviour, the horsemen - honest travellers - followed him.

They found him stretched out, tense, and shaking.

"What are you doing in that grave? We saw you run away. Can we help you? Why are you here in this place?"

"Just because you can ask a question does not mean that there is a straightforward answer to it," said Nasruddin, who now realized what had happened. "It all depends upon your viewpoint. If you must know, however, I am here because of you, and you are here because of me!"

Nasruddin delivers a khutbah (sermon)

Once, the people of the city invited Mulla Nasruddin to deliver a khutba. When he got on the minbar (pulpit), he found the audience were not very enthusiastic, so he asked, "Do you know what I am going to say?" The audience replied, "NO," so he announced, "I have no desire to speak to people who don't even know what I will be talking about," and he left.

The people felt embarrassed and called him back again the next day. This time when he asked the same question, the people replied "YES." So Mullah Nasruddin said, "Well, since you already know what I am going to say, I won't waste any more of your time." and he left.

Now the people were really perplexed. They decided to try one more time and once again invited the Mullah to speak the following week. Once again he asked the same question - "Do you know what I am going to say?" Now the people were prepared and so half of them answered "YES," while the other half replied "NO." So Mullah Nasruddin said "The half who know what I am going to say, tell it to the other half." and he left!

Nasruddin and his donkey

One day, one of Mullah Nasruddin's friends came over and wanted to borrow his donkey for a day or two. Mullah, knowing his friend, was not kindly inclined to the request, and came up with the excuse that someone had already borrowed his donkey. Just as Mullah uttered these words, his donkey started braying in his backyard. Hearing the sound, his friend gave him an accusing look, to which Mullah replied, "I refuse to have any further dealings with you since you take a donkey's word over mine."

A wise young Muslim Boy

[Adapted into English from "Manaqib Abi Hanifah" written by Imam Muwaffaq Ibn Ahmad al-Makki (d. 568 Hijri). Dar al-Kitab al-'Arabiy, Beirut, 1981/1401H.]

Many years ago, during the time of the Tabi'in (the generation of Muslims after the Sahabah), Baghdad was a great city of Islam. In fact, it was the capital of the Islamic Empire and, because of the great number of scholars who lived there, it was the center of Islamic knowledge.

One day, the ruler of Rome at the time sent an envoy to Baghdad with three challenges for the Muslims. When the messenger reached the city, he informed the khalifah that he had three questions which he challenged the Muslims to answer.

The khalifah gathered together all the scholars of the city and the Roman messenger climbed upon a high platform and said, "I have come with three questions. If you answer them, then I will leave with you a great amount of wealth which I have brought from the King of Rome." As for the questions, they were:

- "What was there before Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ?"
- "In which direction does Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ face?"
- "What is Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ engaged in at this moment?"

The great assembly was silent. (Can you think of answers to these questions?) In the midst of these brilliant scholars and students of Islam, was a man looking on with his young son.

"O my dear father! I will answer him and silence him!" said the youth. So the boy sought the permission of the Khalifah to give the answers and he was given the permission to do so.

The Roman addressed the young Muslim and repeated his first question,

"What was there before Allah تبارك وتعالى?"

The boy asked, "Do you know how to count?"

"Yes," said the man.

"Then count down from ten!" So the Roman counted down, "ten, nine, eight,..." until he reached "one" and he stopped counting.

"But what comes before 'one'?" asked the boy.

"There is nothing before one- that is it!" said the man.

"Well then, if there obviously is nothing before the arithmetic 'one', then how do you expect that there should be anything before the 'One' who is Absolute Truth, All-Eternal, Everlasting- the First, the Last, the Manifest, the Hidden?"

Now the man was surprised by this direct answer which he could not dispute. So he asked, "Then tell me, in which direction is Allah تبارك وتعالى facing?"

"Bring a candle and light it," said the boy, "and tell me in which direction the flame is facing."

"But the flame is just light- it spreads in each of the four directions: North, South, East and West. It does not face any one direction only," said the man in wonderment.

The boy cried, "Then if this physical light spreads in all four directions such that you cannot tell me which way it faces, then what do you expect of the Nur-us-Samawati-wal-'Ard: Allah- the Light of the Heavens and the Earth! Light upon Light, Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ faces all directions at all times."

The Roman was stupefied and astounded that here was a young child answering his challenges in such a way that he could not argue against the proofs. So, he desperately wanted to try his final question. But before doing so, the boy said, "Wait! You are the one who is asking the questions and I am the one who is giving the answer to these challenges. It is only fair that you should come down to where I am standing and that I should go up where you are right now, in order that the answers may be heard as clearly as the questions."

This seemed reasonable to the Roman, so he came down from where he was standing and the boy ascended the platform. Then the man repeated his final challenge,

"Tell me, what is Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ doing at this moment?"

The boy proudly answered, "At this moment, when Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ found upon this high platform a liar and mocker of Islam, He caused him to descend and brought him low. And as for the one who believed in the Oneness of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ, He raised him up and established the truth. Every day He exercises (universal) power."

The Roman had nothing to say except to leave and return back to his country, defeated. Meanwhile, this young boy grew up to become one of the most famous scholars of Islam. Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ, the Exalted, blessed him with special wisdom and knowledge of the deen. His name was Abu Hanifah رَضِيَ اللّٰهُ تَعَالٰى عَنْهُ and he is known today as Imam-e-A'zam, the Great Imam and scholar of Islam. May Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ shower some of His Mercy in the same way upon our Muslim children who are growing up today. Ameen.

Did you know?

- All the planets in our solar system rotate anticlockwise, except Venus; it is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- Hummingbirds are the only creatures that can also fly backwards.
- Insects do not make noises with their voices. The noise of bees, mosquitoes and other buzzing insects is caused by rapidly moving their wings.
- The cockroach is the fastest animal on 6 legs covering a meter a second.
- The word "listen" contains the same letters as the word "silent"
- The only 2 animals that can see behind themselves without turning their head are the rabbit and the parrot.
- A hippopotamus can run faster than a man.
- In 1883, the explosion of the volcano Krakatoa put so much dust into the earth's atmosphere that sunsets appeared green and the moon appeared blue around the world for almost two years.
- Depending on the conditions, dogs can sometimes pick up a scent from up to a half-mile away.
- Lions, one of the speediest land animals, spend about 20 hours a day resting.

- Every drop of seawater contains approximately 1 billion gold atoms.
- The total combined weight of the world's ant population is heavier than the weight of the human population.
- Honey is the only food that is never spoiled. Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted by archaeologists and found edible.
- Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon with his left foot first.
- The shortest English word that contains the letters A, B, C, D, E, and F is "feedback."
- In 1221 Genghis Khan killed 1,748,000 people at Nishapur in one hour.
- Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you are there.
- The term Cop comes from Constable on Patrol. It's from England.

Mahmood's Adventure

It was during the last week of January when Mahmood and his friends went out camping in the mountains by a lake. As it was Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى 's will, it happened that the friends arrived on an island at the very center of a frozen lake because the car broke down and they could do nothing but stay on the island. A few days later, the lake showed signs of thawing and the friends hurried across the lake, taking whatever they could with them. Unfortunately, during the same time period, Mahmood had gone to explore and was far away from them when his friends were making their escape. When Mahmood came back, he saw most of the stuff gone and no one around. Most of the lake had now melted and Mahmood was trapped.

The island, as Mahmood estimated was about 2 miles long and 1 mile wide. It was full of greenery and had much of the sights of a forest. Mahmood was able to identify many of the plants because of his previous camping experiences. The lake on the other hand, was too cold and wide to cross by swimming. Many attempts to swim across it failed and so Mahmood had to accept the idea that he would have to wait until somebody rescued him or until the lake got a little bit warmer. He knew he was marooned and alone on the island.

As the days passed, Mahmood kept on remembering his parents, brothers, and sisters. He slept in his sleeping bag that he had brought with him for camping. He lived on many fruits he recognized as safe ones. One day, as Mahmood had feared, a great python appeared.

This is not going to be any regular fight, Mahmood thought to himself. The python, even though this one was extraordinarily deadly and the center of terror among the animal inhabitants of the island, retreated back a little. Never had it seen a thing so big. It was afraid. Mahmood had gathered many rocks and now hurled them with all his might on the python. The python couldn't dodge these missiles and one by one the rocks began tearing up its body. The snake, nevertheless, tried to make its way forward, only to be killed. Mahmood hurled the last, heavy rock on the snake, splitting the snake's head into two and breaking up into tiny pieces on the rocks below the python's head. The python was dead.

Mahmood had a few more skirmishes of the like with a few more animals and began feeling more confident about living alone with the animals of prey all around him. He was now learning the true meaning of courage.

Summer was coming up fast. Mahmood had hoped that someone might come boating on the lake and rescue him. Mahmood's hope was fulfilled later than he had expected. He waited past June, July, and then even August. Maybe this is not a public lake, he figured out. Finally in the third week of September, a few boaters appeared. Mahmood waved to them. They came to the island and picked him up. He was free at last! He had stayed on the island for 7 months. Mahmood stayed with the boaters during their vacation. When the boaters decided to go home, they dropped Mahmood off because he lived close to where they lived.

As Mahmood walked up to the door of his house, he wondered what his family would say to him. His parents were the first to meet him. His mother couldn't believe her eyes and asked him,

"Where were you?" And his father asked,

"What had happened?" Mahmood told his family what had happened. They couldn't believe how he had killed the snake. They were very proud of him. As for Mahmood, he became more courageous after that adventurous stay on the island. He also learned how to handle any situation when he was alone. It was the best adventure of his life.

Sacrifices of a Noble Lady

Hazrat Khansa رضي الله تعالى عنها was an eminent poetess in Arabia. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has also praised her poetry. Hazrat Khansa رضي الله تعالى عنها had immense love for her relatives and well wishers. In fact, she reserved special affection for her brother, Sakhar. Modestly speaking, he was an extremely valiant, intelligent and a generous person. He also loved his sister a lot. Before Hazrat Khansa رضي الله تعالى عنها embraced Islam, her father married her off to a man who turned out to be a spendthrift later on. He spent all the items of his house to cater to his wasteful nature. On this occasion, her brother helped her and gave away the better half of his wealth to his sister. In this way, her brother assisted her financially while she was in trouble. Friends, which sister would not bear affection towards such an adorable and helping brother?

During one of the battles, her brother, Sakhar got terribly injured. A spearhead pierced his body and his lungs popped out of his body. Hazrat Khansa رضي الله تعالى عنها was full of grief. She attended and looked after her brother for a whole year. Yet he passed away. Hazrat Khansa رضي الله تعالى عنها became extremely grief-stricken. Thereafter, she embraced Islam.

On another occasion, while the Persians were leading a tough battle against the Arabs, Hazrat Khansa رضي الله تعالى عنها participated in the battle along with her four sons. She urged her sons to sacrifice their lives for the cause of Allah تبارك وتعالى. She told them that the life in Akhirah is a stable life as

compared to the temporary phase of life in this world. She recited the following verses:

"O you who believe, be patient compete with each other in patience, and guard your frontiers, and fear Allah, so that you may be sucessful." (Al-Imran: 200)

All of her sons lost their lives. Hazrat Khansa رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهَا felt relieved and contented. She said: *"I thank Allah* تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى *for He has blessed me with the sacrifice of my sons."*

This should not sound amazing because anyone who embraces Islam, his/her life undergoes a drastic transformation. And a courageous woman like Khansa رَضِيَ اللهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهَا could only have increased in her valour after becoming a Muslimah.

(Asad-ul-ghabh, kitabun-nissa page: 90, vol: 7)

Are You Ready For the Challenge?

There once was a boy, Asim who loved eating sweets. He always asked for sweets from his father. His father was a poor man. He could not always afford sweets for his son. But Asim was selfish and wanted sweets otherwise he would not do any work and scream loudly.

The boy's father thought hard about how to stop the child asking for so many sweets. There was a wise man living nearby at that time. The boy's father had an idea. He decided to take Asim to the wise man, who might be able to persuade the child to stop his temper tantrums.

The boy and his father went along to the wise man. The wise man said to Asim, "I have heard that you can eat a lot of sweets, is that right?"

Asim replied, "Yes, I can eat more sweets than all the people of the village."

The wise man said, "Oh! A big claim indeed! I don't believe what you said."

Asim was now intimidated, "Oh yes! You can challenge me any time any day."

The old man said, "Ok, then here is my challenge. You will fast every day for one month. But in Sehri you will have to eat three kilograms of sweets, and in Iftar you will have to eat three kilograms of sweets, and in dinner you will have to eat four kilograms of sweet. Do you accept this challenge?"

Asim replied immediately, "Yes! I'll do it from tomorrow."

His father said, "O Wise man! I am already very poor; I cannot afford so many sweets."

The wise man said, "Don't worry! I will pay for the sweets."

And so the challenge began. For three days Asim enjoyed eating all the sweets. But from the fourth day he felt that there was something wrong with his stomach. After one week Asim was tired of the sweets but had to continue otherwise the whole village would laugh at him.

So the challenge continued for the whole month. Asim finally was getting sick and tired of eating sweets all the time. He grew a bit fat also. Finally the challenge was over. He went to the wise man and said, "See! I accepted your challenge and I have won." The wise man replied, "Good! Very good! I congratulate you on this great achievement."

Asim's father whispered in the wise man's ear, "But O wise man! I want him to stop eating sweets."

The wise man whispered back, "So you shall see. From now on he will not eat sweets anymore."

The wise man told his servant, "Bring Asim his gift. He really has won the challenge." The servant went out of the room and came back with Guddu the sweet maker.

The wise man said, "Asim, here is your gift. From now on you can eat as many sweets as you want, and you will not have to pay even a pebble to Guddu for sweets. I will pay for it as long as I live. Now your father will not have to bother about paying for sweets."

Asim was shocked; he jumped up and begged the wise man, "No, please no. I do not want to eat sweets for the rest of my life. No, I will never eat sweets ever again. I am sick of them! I am totally fed up! Please I don't even want to see sweets ever again, please take away sweets from me or I will vomit."

And so, dear kids Asim never ever ate sweets again. But if you still like sweets eat in limits otherwise they will spoil your teeth and make you as fat as an elephant.

The Carpenter

A highly skilled carpenter who had grown old was ready to retire. He told his employer of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his family. He would miss the pay check, but he needed to retire.

The employer was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter agreed to this proposal but made sure that this will be his last project. Being in a mood to retire, the carpenter was not paying much attention to building this house. His heart was not in his work. He resorted to poor workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the job was done, the carpenter called his employer and showed him the house. The employer handed over some papers and the front door key to the carpenter and said "This is your house, my gift to you."

The carpenter was in a shock! What a shame! If he had only known that he was building his own house, he would have made it better than any other house that he ever built!

Our situation can be compared to this carpenter. Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ has sent us to this world to build our homes in paradise by obeying His commands. Now, we have to decide how well we wish to build the homes where we will live forever.

Intelligence of our Prophet ﷺ

During the preparations of Gazwa-e-Badr Hazrat Ali رضی اللہ تعالٰی عنہ saw two men from the enemy camp near Rasulullah ﷺ. One was a person from the Quraish and the other was his slave. Hazrat Ali رضی اللہ تعالٰی عنہ chased them. The slave was caught but his master got away. When the Muslims interrogated the slave about the strength of the enemies all that he could say was that they were in huge numbers and that they had great strength. Muslims tried hard to make the slave reveal some sort of information but he would not speak more than this even when pressured. So the Muslims took him to Rasulullah ﷺ. Our beloved Prophet ﷺ also asked him the same question but he would not reply more than these words that they were in great numbers and they had great strength. Everyone asked him for the precise number but he would not say more. Finally, Rasulullah ﷺ asked him how many camels they slaughtered for food and he replied ten. After hearing this, our beloved Prophet ﷺ pronounced that the enemies were one thousand as one camel can suffice for a hundred men. Here we can see that ten multiplied by a hundred gives one thousand, this means that slaughtering ten camels would give enough food for a thousand men to eat for lunch and dinner. It is indeed a miracle for someone who has not learnt from any teacher to be so quick at mathematics. In fact without any formal education Rasulullah ﷺ also did trade, and this served as a means for our beloved Prophet ﷺ to know Hazrat Khadija رضی اللہ تعالٰی عنہا who later became his first wife.

(Dalil-un-nabuwwah-lil-bahiqi, vol. 3, page: 109)

An Old Story

In the country of Yemen, three miles away from its capital, San`a', there was a city by the name of Ma'rib, in which the people of Saba' (Sheba) used to live. The city was located between two mountains. Water from rains used to come from the two mountains, leaving the city inundated. The city had the reputation of being the target of such floods. Rulers of the city built a strong and fortified dam between the two mountains. This dam not only stopped the serial surges of flooded water but also provided a permanent source of water for their farms and garden; and turned the place into a paradise.

The slopes of the two mountains to the left and right of the city were landscaped with rows of garden fed by canals of water. Trees and fruits of all sorts used to grow in these gardens so abundantly that, a woman would walk with an empty basket perched on her head, and it would automatically get filled with fruits falling from the trees without the least need to make use of her hands.

Allah تبارك وتعالى had made the city beautiful. It had a moderate climate without any extremes of heat or chill. So healthy, clean and bracing-to the extent that there was no trace of any hurting life forms like mosquitoes, flies, fleas, snakes and scorpions any where throughout the city. In fact, when travellers from outside would reach the city–having lice or other harmful parasites in their clothes–these would die off as soon as they arrived there.

But the people lived there were ungrateful and denied the true faith. Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى sent thirteen prophets for their guidance, but they rejected all of them.

So Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى set blind rats upon their great dam, which weekend its foundation and made it hallow. When came the time of rains and the flooding of water, the pressure of water broke through the already weakened foundations creating gaps and cervices in the dam. Ultimately, the water collected behind the dam ran over the entire valley in which the city was located; houses collapsed, trees were uprooted. The water feeding the twin rows of gardens by the mountain was dried up. However it was already predicted in their books that rats will destroy the dam. When people saw rats near the dam, they were alerted by the danger. As a defensive measure a large number of cats were released under the dam in the hope that they would stop the rats from coming close to the dam. But when the divine decree, the rats overcame the cats and entered into the foundation of the dam. Quran Kareem states,

There was indeed a sign for (the community of) Saba' in their home-land: two gardens, (one) on the right and one) on the left. Eat of the provision from your Lord, and be grateful to Him – (You have) an excellent city, and a Most-Forgiving Lord. Then they turned away. So We sent to them the flood of the dam, and replaced their two gardens with two gardens having fruits of bitter taste, and tamarisk and some bushes of wild lotes. Thus We punished them because of their ungratefulness. We do not give (such a) punishment but to the ungrateful.

(Surah As-Saba': 15-17)

In other words Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى released over them the flood of the dam because they flouted the commandments of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى through their contumacy and rebellion, despite having such blessings and despite having been warned by the noble prophets.

(Marif-ul-Quran, Surah As-Saba': 15-17)

Sin Leads to trouble

Hamid and Nasir were both fruit vendors. They were also good friends and lived in the same locality. Both were very honest too. But this Ramadhaan was a different case. Since fruits are in great demand during the holy month of Ramadhaan, Hamid saw a chance to mint money. He started charging three times more money than the discounted rates announced for Ramadhaan by the government. Nasir was very worried about Hamid's wrong thinking. After the Friday Salat he told Hamid,

"Friend, there is contentment and peace in Halaal earning, there is trouble and restlessness in Haraam earning. I have come to know that you are charging a lot this Ramadhaan. What is wrong with you? Ramadhaan is a month of blessings, you should not charge exorbitant rates as Allah تبارك وتعالى does not like this."

Hamid replied, "Nasir you know everyone does the same. If I don't charge more, how will I survive? You understand well that I have a family to feed." Nasir said, "If others are charging more and you ask for the right price, more people will come and buy form you." But Hamid started arguing to whuch Nasir did not say anything more but prayed that may Allah تبارك وتعالى guide his friend to the true path.

Finally Ramadhaan was over, Hamid was very happy because he had collected seven thousand rupees. He started off to buy clothes for his children from Tariq Road. But on the way a taxi hit him. All his

happiness vanished in a moment. On the morning of Eid he was lying in a hospital and could not even go for Eid Salat. When on the fourth day of Eid he was discharged, the seven thousand were already spent.

Allah تبارك وتعالى opened up Hamid's eyes. Now he realised, that Nasir had told him the truth. All his haraam income went to waste. He repented sincerely and resolved never to charge more than the right amount. He went to Nasir's home and thanked him,

"Nasir my friend, you were right and I should have listened to you. Now I shall never do this again."

Aamir and Satan

It was a very hot and humid afternoon of July, and hot it definitely was! The heat was showing its effect not only on the mercury but also on Aamir's mood. He was already frustrated and angry over the undercooked lunch, the electricity supply and wanted a shower, but guess what! There wasn't a drop of water wanting to come out of the tap. That was it! He could not stand it any longer. He thought,

"It is all because of Satan, he makes us commit sins and we bear the wrath of Allah تبارك وتعالى through the scorching sun, and even then we don't repent and we torture our fellow humans by load shortening the supply of gas, water and electricity." Then his thoughts turned to the sins he had committed, he felt really angry at Satan, he murmured to himself angrily, "If I could get hold of Satan, I'd kill him!"

Just as he uttered these words, he was surprised to see smoke coming from nowhere, and then!.......Yes in front of him was an ugly faced, scary looking creature. He was shocked, and he couldn't believe his eyes. Aamir had never seen or heard of such a creature, he stuttered, "Wh wh who aa are yyy you?"

And the reply was as shocking as the creature's looks, it said, "You wanted to kill me? Yes I am Satan! But I came here to tell you that you are wrong. I don't force you into committing sins! You do it because you like to do so. Come with me, and I'll show you how."

With this he started to move toward the market near Aamir's home, Aamir followed curiously. Nobody except Aamir could see Satan, and he would whisper into people's ears as he was walking through the market. He stopped right in front of the cold drink crates of "A-One General Store and Bakers"; he took an almost empty bottle and spilled the few drops that were present in it. In a few minutes eight to ten flies came and settled around it, suddenly a small lizard appeared from nowhere and attacked the flies. His Uncle Ashir, the shopkeeper, had a cat, which tried to catch the lizard. The pet cat owned by Fahid Sahib a regular customer, Fahad Sahib's pet cat started a fight with uncle Ashir's cat. Now both uncle Ashir and Fahad Sahib were engaged in a heated debate over whose cat was more injured. In a matter of ten minutes a crowd had gathered around the two former good friends, all the people of the locality who knew them, were now involved in the scuffle, many of them were common friends of them both, but now everyone was divided into two groups. Someone called up the police and they were there in no time. Several people were arrested, someone bribed a police official, and he discriminated in favouring one group over the other.

Aamir was watching all this with great disgust. Satan looked at him and said,

"See, all I did was spill a little leftover cold drink. Anyone might have done this accidentally. My point is that I never ever force anyone into committing a sin. All I do is to give them the slightest idea and they do the rest of it themselves. This is because a human's heart is attracted

to sins, as it looks so appealing. For a human to avoid sins, he must keep his or her heart constantly in remembrance of Allah تبارك وتعالى, just like a garden needs constant care of a gardener otherwise it'll turn into a jungle."

In the meantime Aamir, who was intently listening, understood everything. Now he knew that the Satan's whispering were actually the ideas of sins he was giving to people, and he remembered the du'aa for making Satan go away. He said,

"Auzo Billahi Min Al-shaytaan Ar-rajeem, La-haula Wala Qouwata Illa Billahil 'Allyyil 'Azeem."

And Satan gave a horrible cry, and ran away!

Short Stories

One Wish at a Time

An Arab camel-driver, after completing the loading of his camel, asked him what he would like best, to go uphill or down. The poor beast replied, not without a touch of reason

"Why do you ask me? Is it that the levelled way through the desert is closed?"

A Wilful Beast Must Go Its Own Way

An ass, being driven along a high road, suddenly started off and bolted to the brink of a deep precipice. While he was in the act of throwing himself over, his owner seized him by the tail, endeavouring to pull him back. When the ass persisted in his effort, the man let him go and said, "Conquer, but conquer at your own cost."

Truth is Bitter

Two men, one who always spoke the truth and the other who told nothing but lies, were travelling together and by chance came to the land of Apes. One of the apes, who had raised himself to be a king, commanded them to be seized and brought before him, so that he might

know what was said of him among men. He ordered at the same time that all the Apes be arranged in a long row on his right hand and on his left, and that a throne be placed for him, as was the custom among men. After these preparations, he signified that the two men should be brought before him, and greeted them with this salutation: "What sort of a king do you think me to be, O strangers?' The lying traveller replied,

"You seem to me to be the most mighty of kings."

"And what is your estimate of those you see around me?"

"These," he answered, "are your worthy companions, fit at least to be ambassadors and leaders of armies." The Ape and all his court, gratified with the lie, commanded that a handsome present be given to the flatterer. On this the truthful traveller thought to himself,

"If so great a reward be given for a lie, with what gift may not I be rewarded, if, according to my custom, I tell the truth?' The Ape quickly turned to him. "And pray how do my friends around me and I seem to you?' "You are," he said, "a most excellent Ape, and all these your companions after your example are excellent Apes too." The King of the Apes, enraged at hearing the truth, gave him over to the teeth and claws of his companions. Truth afterall is usually is not sweet.

Clean Jokes

The Sultan and the False Prophet

A certain man claimed to be a prophet and was brought before the Sultan, who said to him,

"I bear witness that you are a stupid prophet!"

The man replied,

"That is why I have only been sent to people like you."

The Forgetful Narratot of Tradiotions

Someone said to Ashab, "If you were to relate traditions and stop telling jokes, you would be doing a noble thing."

"By God!" answered Ashab, "I have heard traditions and related them."

"Then tell us," said the man.

"I heard from Nafai," said Ashab, "on the authority of such-and-such, that the Prophet, may Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ bless him, said,

"There are two qualities, such that whoever has them is among Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ's elect."

"That is a fine tradition," said the man. "What are these two qualities?"

"Nafai forgot one and I have forgotten the other," replied Ashab.

Wisdom in Words

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen nor can be touched, but can be felt in the heart.". – Helen Keller.

It is the sun's job to give light, but it does not want to so its light hurts our eyes.

It is not the moon's job to give light, but it wants to help us by giving light, so even though it does not have light of its own and borrows from the sun, its light doesn't hurt us.

We all love to see the moon and dislike looking at the sun. Because the moon borrows light from sun but sun itself dosen't know how to present it kindly.

If your actions are different from what you believe then you are most certainly unhappy, agitated and dissatisfied.

Where there is a will, there is a way.

Those who have faith in fate are never unhappy.

If you have faith in one God, you can depend on Him. If you have no faith in God you cannot depend on anybody. If you have faith in more than one God you don't know whom to depend on.

There are two types of people who seek advice:

Those who want to improve or know whether they are right or wrong.

Those who only seek to find more people with similar thoughts or are just looking for one person to approve them.

The first type is better, and the second type is more in number.

"If a man does his best, what else is there?" - General George S. Patton

"People demand freedom of speech to make up for the freedom of thought which they avoid." - Soren Kierkegaard

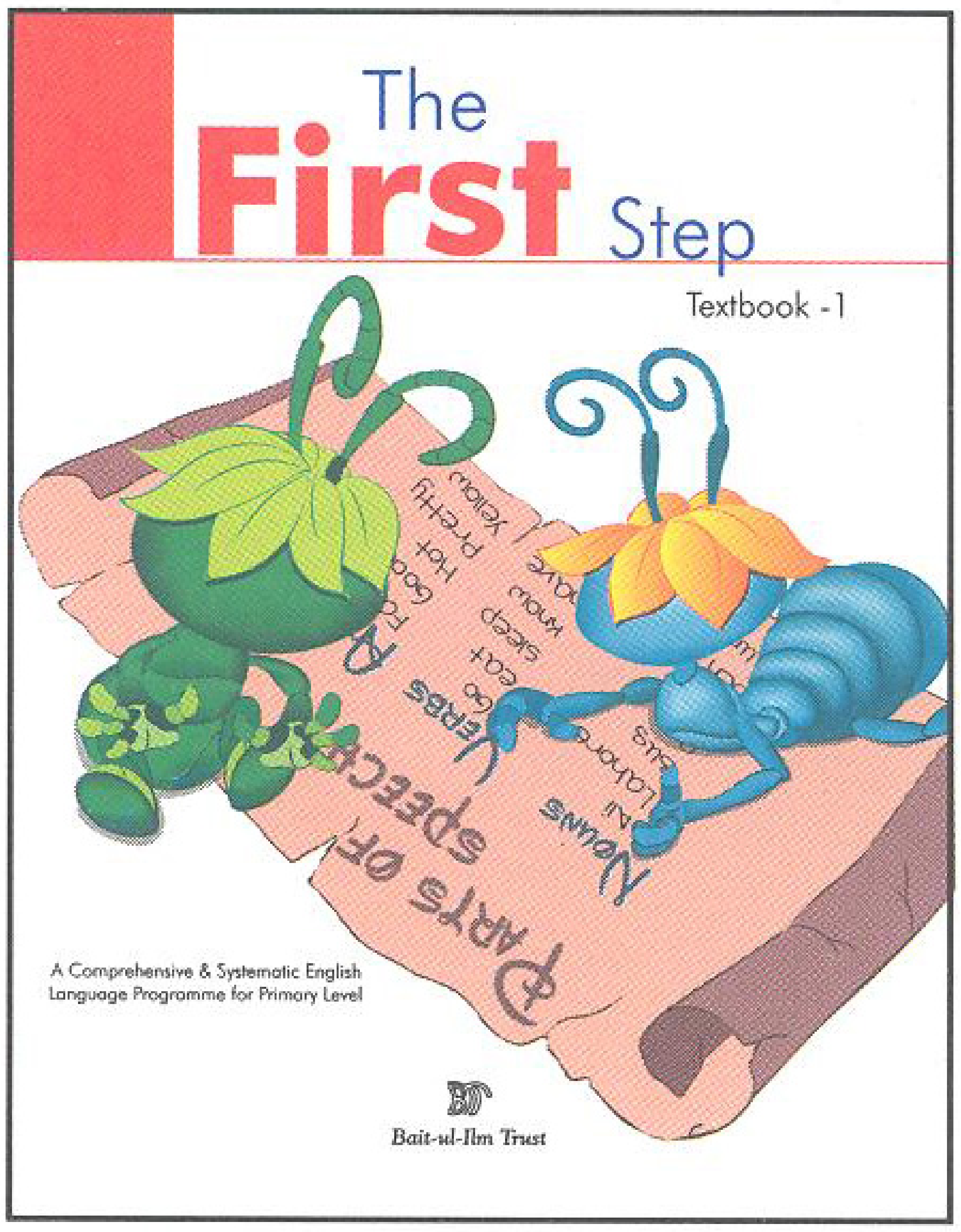
It is so simple to be happy but it is so difficult to be simple.

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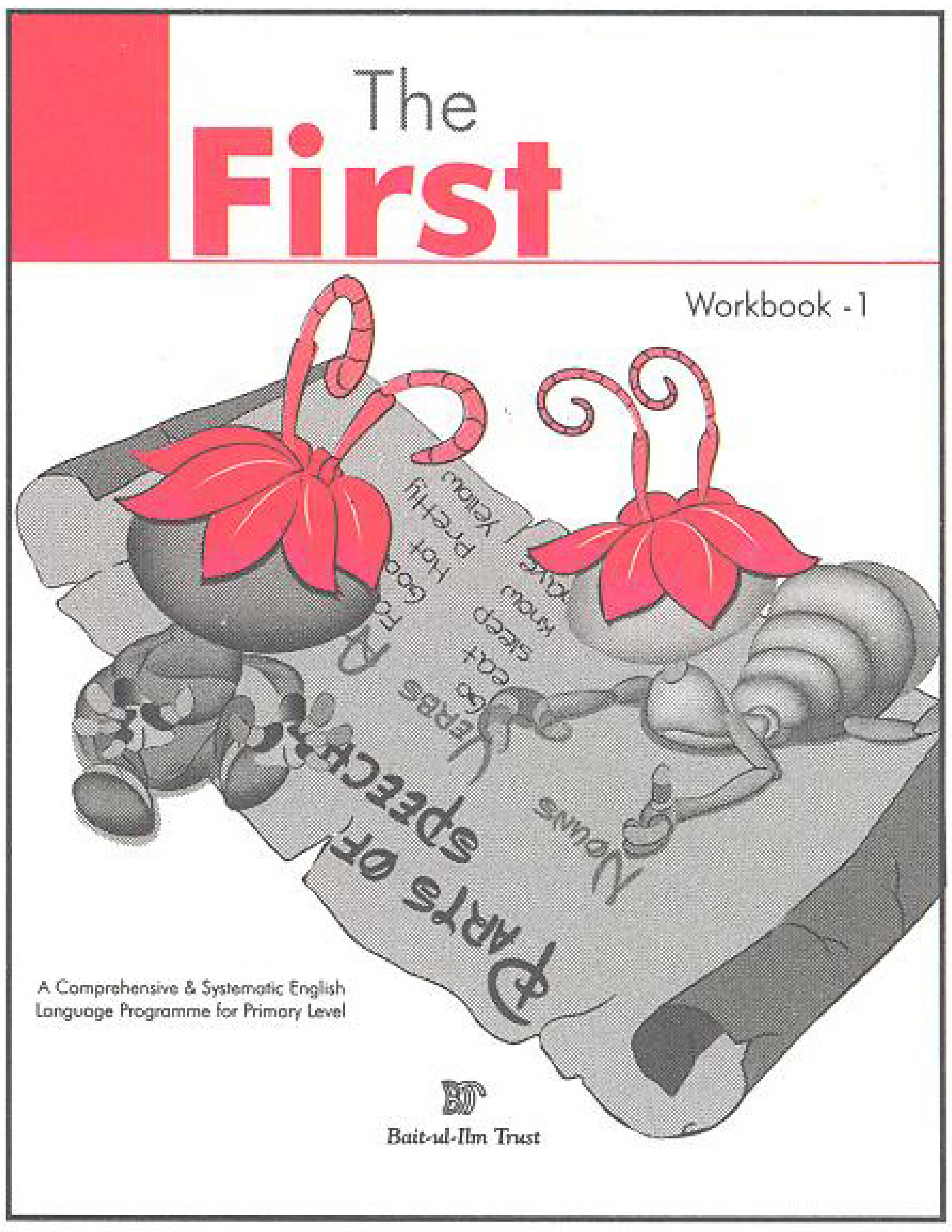
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